





606148

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

THIRTY-FIVE VOLUMES.

— (4.) —

A R M Y.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

Session

19 *November* 1867 — 31 *July* 1868.

VOL. XLIII.

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1867-8.

THIRTY-FIVE VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

N.B.—*THE* Figures at the beginning of the line, correspond with the N^o at the foot of each Paper; and the Figures at the end of the line, refer to the MS. Paging of the Volumes arranged for *The House of Commons*.

A R M Y :

Abyssinian Expedition (Estimate) :

- ✓ 219. Estimate prepared by the India Office of Expenditure for the Abyssinian Expedition - - - - - p. 1

Abyssinian Expedition (Vote of Credit) :

- ✓ 8. Estimate of the Sum required towards defraying the Expenses of the Expedition to Abyssinia, beyond the Ordinary Grants of Parliament - - - - - 7
- ✓ 260. Estimate of the Sum required towards defraying the Expenses of the Expedition to Abyssinia, beyond the Ordinary Grants of Parliament - - - - - 9

Abyssinian Expedition :

- ✓ [3955.] Papers connected with the Abyssinian Expedition - - - 11
- ✓ [3955-IV.] Further Papers - - - - - 537
- ✓ [3955-V.] Further Papers - - - - - 727
- ✓ [3955-VI.] Further Papers - - - - - 755
- ✓ 337. Two Despatches from Sir Robert Napier to the Secretary of State for India, dated respectively 14th April and 12th May 1868 - 817
- ✓ [3962.] Names, &c. of the Prisoners in Abyssinia - - - 839
- ✓ 91. Return of List, with the Names, of every Merchant Vessel or Steamer engaged in the Abyssinian Expedition Chartered in England, with the Net and Gross Register Tonnage of each Ship, the Horse-power of each Engine, the price per Ton each Ship is Chartered at; also the name of each Registered Owner of such Ship, with the Name of the Broker who tendered such Ship - - 843

Abyssinian Expedition—*continued.*

- ✓ 174. Amount of Condensing Power, in detail, for the Supply of Fresh Water in each Vessel intended to be employed in the Abyssinian Expedition, including that of the Condensing Vessel to be stationed at Annesley Bay - - - - - p. 845
- ✓ 206. Number of European Officers with each Native Regiment; distinguishing those belonging to the Regiment, and those attached from other Regiments, in the Expedition to Abyssinia, and the Number of Native Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of each Regiment - - - - - 847
- ✓ 410. Number of European Officers with each Native Regiment in the Expedition to Abyssinia, and the Number of Native Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers, and Rank and File with each Regiment, with corresponding Lists of the European Officers - 853
-

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 23 April 1868;—for,

COPY “of ESTIMATE prepared by the INDIA OFFICE of EXPENDITURE
for the ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.”

Treasury Chambers, }
23 April 1868. }

G. SCLATER-BOOTH.

Sir,

India Office, S.W., 3 April 1868.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, No. 4358/68, forwarding, for any observations which Sir Stafford Northcote might wish to make thereon, copy of a Letter and Estimate by Mr. Turner, respecting the probable charges of the Abyssinian Expedition.

In reply, I am directed to inform you that the information available here for the preparation of an Estimate of the Expenditure on account of this Expedition is very insufficient, although repeated applications have been made to the Government of Bombay on the subject.

An Estimate has, however, been prepared in this office, which must be regarded as approximate only, from which it appears that the charges in India and England, to the end of May 1868, will probably amount to about 5,000,000/. A copy of this Estimate is forwarded herewith.

That sum is considerably in excess of the amount shown in Mr. Turner's Estimate to the end of April 1868, after allowing for the additional month's Expenditure; but it is stated by Mr. Turner that his Estimate has been framed on incomplete data, and that he has “preferred to give totals which will doubtless prove to be considerably under the actuals, when brought to account, than otherwise.”

The list of ships which accompanied your letter is returned.

G. A. Hamilton, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) Clinton.

EXPEDITION TO ABYSSINIA.

	To be Disbursed by	
	Imperial Government.	Indian Government.
Estimate of October 1867 :		
Charge to end of December 1867 :	£.	£.
Ships (Admiralty) Coals and Provisions - - - -	650,000	—
Mules (W. O.) Feeding, Stable Gear, Servants, &c. - -	200,000	—
India Store Department Charges, including Shipping - -	- -	150,000
In India :		
Purchase of Pack Animals - - - - -	- -	450,000
Feeding, Attendants, and Fittings (20,000) to end of November 1867 - - - - -	- -	80,000
Transport, 60,000 Tons, to end of December - - - -	- -	390,000
Sundries Commissariat, Forage, and all Extra Charges to Embarkation - - - - -	- -	80,000
£.	850,000	1,150,000
Estimate of March 1868 :		
Mules, Stores, &c. (W. O.) to 31st March 1868 - - - -	189,000	—
Coals, &c. (Admiralty) in addition to October Estimate, payable after March 1868 - - - - -	- -	22,000
Per Month.		
In India, from 1st January 1868 :		
Pay of Troops - - - - -	—	
Transport - - - - -	400,000	
Provisions, Troops and Followers - - - - -	28,000	
Provisions, Baggage Animals - - - - -	90,000	
Foreign Service Allowances - - - - -	10,000	
Coals - - - - -	26,250	
Miscellaneous - - - - -	35,000	
Per Month - - - -	£. 589,250	
Vide General Jameson's Estimate, annexed.		
For Five Months to end of May, say - - - - -	- -	3,000,000
In England: India Store Department, additional to 30th June, say	- -	140,000
£.	1,039,000	4,312,000
		1,039,000
	£.	5,351,000

13 March 1868.

The Preliminary Estimate made on the 1st October amounted to 2,000,000 *l.*; this, I think, may fairly stand, as far as can now be ascertained, as a near approximation to the expenditure up to the 31st December 1867.

From the 1st January 1868, the monthly expense was calculated at 370,000 *l.*, as follows:—

	£.
Pay of troops - - - - -	50,000
Commissariat, at least - - - - -	60,000
Rations and allowances for foreign service to soldiers and followers - - - - -	10,000
Transport - - - - -	150,000
Coals - - - - -	25,000
Forage for cattle - - - - -	50,000
Miscellaneous - - - - -	25,000
	£. 370,000

this, excluding the pay of troops, would leave 320,000 *l.* per mensem to be paid by the Imperial Government.

It is found that many of these items, sea-transport especially, were very greatly underestimated. The transport alone is now shown to be very nearly 400,000 *l.* a month. This, however, might be very largely reduced by the discharge of vessels amounting in number to 53 sailing ships, aggregating 28,773 tons, and which have been engaged in carrying elephants, camels, mules, ponies, and bullocks, as well as bulky Commissariat Stores, such as grain, rations, pressed hay, bran, straw, &c. At the termination of the expedition there will be many stores the removal of which by sea would cost much more than their worth. The provisions, grain, and hay will perhaps be consumed; but, if not, it appears to me that with the exception of the grain and provisions it would be economical to abandon, or, if possible, dispose of, what may be left. This remark applies to the baggage animals, with the exception perhaps of elephants, for their transport to India would far exceed their value, and in any imaginable case it would not be worth while to keep in monthly pay a large fleet of transports with the view of eventually carrying them back to India.

The number of baggage animals that have been procured for service in Abyssinia is, by the latest returns—

45 Elephants.
8,000 Camels.
16,950 Mules.
5,000 Bullocks.

The feeding of these animals, with the pay of their attendants, will cost on an average, at the very least, 30 rupees each per mensem, which is a low estimate, considering the expense of forage and grain sent to Abyssinia.

Thus we have $29,995 \times 30 = 899,850$ rupees, or, in round numbers, 90,000 *l.*

The force at present consists of—

Europeans, fighting men - - - - -	3,213
Natives - - ditto - - - - -	7,711

and we may add at least 1,500 Natives proceeding to join; this gives a total of 3,213 Europeans and 9,211 Natives, or, together, 12,424 of all ranks. Estimating followers on the new reduced scale of one per man, it will double the above numerical amount, and estimating the rations of an European at 20 rupees per month, and of a Native at 10 rupees, we have a total of—

	Rs.
$3,213 \times 20 =$	64,260
$9,211 \times 10 =$	92,110
$12,424 \times 10 =$	124,240
	Rs. 280,610

say, £. 28,000.

COALS.

Supposing five transports to be daily under steam in conveying troops, carrying mails, &c., it would give an average expenditure of 25 tons of coal for each transport.

5 × 25 = 125 tons per diem, or, per mensem, 3,750 tons, at 3 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	£.
per ton - - - - -	13,125
The coals required for condensing water, 27,000 gallons per diem, at Zoulla, cannot be less than the above, although I have no means of ascertaining accurately - - - - -	13,125
	£. 26,250

The estimate of monthly expenditure might stand thus:—

Pay of Troops - - - - -	Excluded.
Sea Transport - - - - -	400,000
Provisions for Troops and Followers, as above shown - - -	28,000
Provisions of Baggage Animals - - - - -	90,000
Foreign Service and Staff, and Allowance to the Officers and Troops	10,000
Coals - - - - -	26,250
Miscellaneous, about - - - - -	35,000
	£. 589,250

Thus we have—

Preliminary Estimate - - - - -	£. 2,000,000
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Five Months, 1st January to 31st May - - - - -	£. 2,946,250
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Provided the Expedition terminates on the 31st May, it would not be safe to ask for less than three millions, and there are charges which cannot at present be estimated, such for instance as the railways, telegraphs, &c. If continued beyond the 31st May next, it would be safe to estimate a further charge of 600,000 *l.* for every month beyond that date.

12 March 1868.

(signed) *G. J. Jameson*, Major General,
Auditor.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

COPY of ESTIMATE prepared by the India Office
of EXPENDITURE for the ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
23 April 1868.*

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

1867-8.

VOTE OF CREDIT - - - - - £.2,000,000.

ESTIMATE of the SUM required to be Voted towards defraying the
EXPENSES of the EXPEDITION to ABYSSINIA, beyond the ordinary
GRANTS of PARLIAMENT—

Two Million Pounds.

Treasury Chambers, }
November 1867. }

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

1867-8.

VOTE OF CREDIT - - £.2,000,000.

ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be Voted
towards defraying the EXPENSES of the EXPE-
DITION to ABYSSINIA, beyond the ordinary
GRANTS of PARLIAMENT—

Two Million Pounds.

(Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
25 November 1867.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION (VOTE OF CREDIT).

1868-9.

VOTE OF CREDIT - - - - - £. 3,000,000

ESTIMATE of the SUM required to be Voted towards defraying the
EXPENSES of the EXPEDITION to ABYSSINIA, beyond the ordinary
Grants of Parliament.

Three Million Pounds.

Treasury Chambers, }
11 May 1868. }

G. SCLATER-BOOTH.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION
(VOTE OF CREDIT).

1868-9.

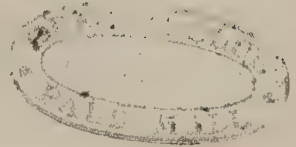
ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be Voted
towards defraying the Expenses of the Expe-
dition to Abyssinia, beyond the ordinary
Grants of Parliament.

(Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
11 May 1868.*

P A P E R S

CONNECTED WITH THE



ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND, WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1867.

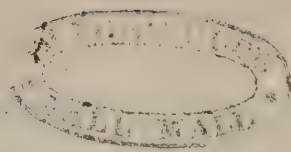


TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	FROM.	To	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
1	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	1867. July 10	Inquiry as to time required for expedition.	1
2	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 12	Preliminary measures -	"
3	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 13	Time required for preparations	"
4	Secretary of State for India.	Governor General in Council.	—	" 17	Preliminary inquiries -	2
5	" "	Government of Bombay	—	" 17	"	"
6	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 18	Time required: carriage ani- mals.	3
7	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 25	Preliminary inquiries -	"
8	Governor General -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 26	" " -	"
9	Secretary of State for India.	Resident at Aden -	T.	" 26	Instructions will be given by Sir R. Napier.	"
10	" "	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 27	Time required; carriage; despatch boats.	"
11	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 28	Memorandum by Sir R. Napier sent; Col. Merewether sum- moned.	"
12	" "	" "	T.	" 29	Time required; carriage; stores; transport ships.	4
13	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 31	Transport animals; despatch boats.	"
14	" "	" "	T.	Aug. 1	Transport animals; requisitions from England.	"
15	Resident at Aden -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	July 11	News from the captives -	"
16	Letter from Dr. Blanc. Resident at Aden -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 20	Survey of coast from Massowah to Tajoora; letter from King of Shoa.	11
17	Letter from King of Shoa to Col. Merewether. to the Queen. Resident at Aden -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 26	News from the captives sum- mons to Bombay.	13
18	Letter from Dr. Blanc. Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	Aug. 6	Facilities for purchasing animals in Turkey and Egypt.	17
19	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 6	Place of landing; amount of force.	"
20	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 9	Place of landing; amount of force; purchase of animals; Commander-in-Chief; requi- sitions from England.	18
21	" "	" "	T.	" 9	Col. Lucas; purchase of trans- ports.	"
22	" "	" "	T.	" 10	Despatch boats; purchase of transports.	"
23	Governor General -	" "	T.	" 10	Funds and coin -	"
24	Dr. Beke -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 10	Suggestions -	19
25	" -	" "	—	" 13	Coin -	22
26	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 13	Preparations; facilities required in Turkey and Egypt; sanc- tion for expenditure; pur- chase of transports; stores.	24
27	" -	Treasury -	—	" 13	Copy of preceding letter -	"
28	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 13	Sir R. Napier proposed for com- mand; purchase of transports.	25
29	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 13	Purchase of transports; provi- sion of funds.	"

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
30	Secretary of State for India.	Governor General -	T.	1867. Aug. 13	Provision of funds - -	25
31	" "	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 14	Provision of funds; purchase of transports; demand for release of captives to be made; requisitions from England.	"
32	Mr. Dufton -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 14	Offer of services - -	"
33	Dr. Beke -	Chancellor of Exchequer.	—	" 14	Coin - - - -	27
34	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 15	Pamphlet on routes in Abyssinia	29
35	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 15	Sir R. Napier to take command, with Sir C. Staveley as second.	35
36	" "	" "	T.	" 15	Coal at Aden - -	"
37	Governor General -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 15	Prospects of success - -	"
38	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	—	" 16	Expedition decided on, with Sir R. Napier in command; preparations; expense to be Imperial; facilities in Egypt.	"
	Sir Stafford Northcote to Mr. Fitzgerald.					
39	" "	" "	—	" 16	Lieutenant-Col. Merewether -	32
40	India Office -	Admiralty -	—	" 16	Survey of Massowah channel -	"
41	Dr. Beke -	Secretary of State for India.	—	" 16	Coin; routes - -	"
42	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 17	Question of expenditure; facilities in Egypt.	33
43	Admiralty -	" "	—	" 17	Survey of Massowah channel; "Star" selected; beacons.	"
44	India Office -	Admiralty -	—	" 17	Survey of Massowah channel; beacons.	34
45	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 17	Command of expedition; Sir R. Napier and Col. Merewether.	"
46	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 17	Dr. Beke's letters - -	35
47	" -	Treasury -	—	" 18	Question of expenditure -	"
48	Secretary of State for India.	Government of India -	—	" 19	Equipment of force at Bombay; co-operation requested.	"
49	" "	Government of Bombay.	—	" 19	Channel of Massowah; Dr. Beke's letters; blue book; Mr. Dufton.	36
50	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 19	Pamphlet on routes and map of Abyssinia.	"
51	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Consul General in Egypt.	—	" 19	Facilities in Egypt - -	37
52	" "	Resident at Aden -	—	" 19	Letter to King of Shoa -	"
53	" "	King of Shoa -	—	" 19	" " " " - -	"
54	" "	Resident at Aden -	—	" 19	Expedition decided on; thanks for services.	38
55	India Office -	Dr. Beke -	—	" 20	Routes and map - -	"
56	" -	Treasury -	—	" 20	Mode of repaying India for its expenditure; coin.	"
57	Dr. Beke -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 20	Reply to certain statements respecting his mission.	39
58	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 21	Transport vessels; mules -	45
59	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 22	Mountain batteries - -	"
60	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 22	Transports; orders to Commodore Heath; naval arrangements.	"
61	India Office -	Admiralty -	—	" 22	Transports; tonnage required; hospital ships.	46
62	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 22	Field telegraph - -	"
63	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.	—	" 22	Facilities from the Sultan for landing in Egypt.	"
64	" "	" "	—	" 22	Use of the Syrian telegraph line	"
65	" "	" "	—	" 22	Facilities for purchase of animals in Arabia.	47
66	" "	Ambassador in Persia	—	" 22	Facilities for purchase of animals in Persia.	"
67	Admiralty - Memorandum by Director of Transport Services.	India Office -	—	" 23	Amount of tonnage - -	"
68	Admiralty - Memorandum by the Hydrographer.	India Office -	—	" 23	Survey and lighting of Red Sea	49

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
				1867.		
69	India Office - - -	Admiralty - - -	—	Aug. 23	Survey and lighting of Red Sea	50
70	War Office - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 23	Mountain batteries; mode of paying for stores.	"
71	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 23	Coal at Aden and Bombay -	"
72	" " " -	" " " -	T.	" 23	Facilities from Viceroy of Egypt	"
73	Foreign Office . -	Ministers at Vienna, Venice, and Cairo.	—	" 24	Coin - - - -	"
74	Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich	-	T.	" 24	Mountain equipment - -	51
75	India Office - - -	War Office - - -	—	" 24	" " mode of paying for stores.	"
76	Admiralty - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 24	Coal at Bombay and Aden -	"
	Letter from P. and O.	Steam Navigation Co.				
77	India Office - - -	Admiralty - - -	—	" 24	" " -	52
78	Treasury - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 24	Means for checking expenditure	"
79	Transport Office -	" - - -	—	" 24	As to sending out passengers or stores in transport vessels.	"
80	Governor General -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 24	Provision of funds - -	53
81	Governor of Bombay	" " " -	T.	" 25	Mules - - - -	"
82	India Office - - -	War Office - - -	—	" 26	Mules; 7,000 to be obtained before end of November.	"
83	" - - -	Foreign Office -	—	" 26	Facilities for landing in Egypt	"
84	Treasury - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 26	Letters from Dr. Beke -	54
85	India Office - - -	Transport Office -	—	" 27	Stores to be sent in steam transports.	"
86	Treasury - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 27	Mode of repaying India for ex- penditure; coin.	"
87	India Office - - -	Bank of England -	—	" 27	Purchase of Maria Theresa dollars.	55
88	" - - -	Agent at Alexandria -	—	" 27	Consignment of dollars -	"
89	" - - -	Resident at Aden -	—	" 27	" " -	"
90	" - - -	War Office - - -	—	" 27	Maltese carts; pack-saddles; harness.	"
91	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 27	Steam transports and hospital ships.	56
92	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 27	Mountain battery, rockets, Snider rifles, and carbines.	"
93	" " " -	" " " -	T.	" 27	Divisional and brigade com- mands; rank for Lieut.-Col. Merewether.	"
94	" " " -	" " " -	T.	" 27	Transport vessels - -	"
95	" " " -	" " " -	T.	" 27	Dr. Krapf, Mr. Parkyn, and missionaries.	"
96	War Office - - -	Foreign Office -	—	" 27	Mules from Mediterranean ports	57
97	" - - -	" " " -	—	" 27	Mule depôts at Alexandria and Suez.	"
98	" - - -	" " " -	—	" 28	Facilities to officers engaged in collecting mules.	"
99	" - - -	" " " -	—	" 28	Pamphlet on routes in Abyssinia	58
100	" - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 28	Purchase of mules, and their reception in Egypt.	"
	Memorandum of scheme for obtaining mules.					
101	India Office - - -	War Office - - -	—	" 28	Conveyance of mules through Egypt; pack-saddles.	59
102	War Office - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 28	Maltese carts, pack-saddles, and harness.	60
103	Secretary of State for India.	Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich.	T.	" 28	" " " " despatch of	"
104	Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich.	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 28	" " " " -	"
105	Secretary of State for India.	Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich.	T.	" 28	" " " " -	"
106	" " " -	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 28	Troop transport service not to be interrupted; transport of mules.	"
107	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 28	Telegraphic line viâ Souakin -	"
108	" " " -	" " " -	T.	" 28	Lieut.-Colonel Lucas - -	"
109	War Office - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 29	Mule arrangements - -	61
	Memorandum of arrangements.					
110	India Office - - -	War Office - - -	—	" 29	" " - -	62
111	War Office - - -	Foreign Office -	—	" 29	" " - -	"

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
112	Foreign Office	Consuls in Mediterranean.	—	1867. Aug. 29	Mules - - - -	62
113	" "	" "	—	" 29	Mules, letter of introduction for officers collecting.	63
114	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Consul General in Egypt.	T.	" 29	Mules; Col. Clark Kennedy	"
115	" "	Ambassadors in Italy and Spain.	—	" 29	Mules, facilities for officers purchasing.	"
116	" "	Consul General in Egypt.	—	" 29	Mules, depôts in Egypt	"
117	" "	" "	T.	" 29	Telegraphic line via Souakin	64
118	Foreign Office	Consuls at Alicante and Smyrna.	—	" 29	Payment for mules	"
119	" "	War Office	—	" 29	Mules; instructions to consuls	"
120	War Office	Foreign Office	—	" 29	Mules; letters of introduction and passports for officers.	65
121	Major-General Baker	Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich	T.	" 29	Mule harness - - -	"
122	India Office	War Office	—	" 29	" " " "	"
123	Foreign Office	India Office	—	" 29	Facilities for landing in Egypt; instructions to consuls.	"
124	War Office	"	—	" 29	Mule equipment; officer to attend at Woolwich.	66
125	"	"	—	" 29	Stores from Woolwich and the Tower.	"
126	Admiralty	India Office	—	" 29	Capt. Tryon appointed to charge of transports.	"
127	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 29	Yeast - - - -	67
128	" "	" "	T.	" 29	Field telegraph, land transport waggons, and ambulances.	"
129	War Office	Foreign Office	—	" 30	Mules; letters of introduction for Mr. Wetherell in Spain.	"
130	Foreign Office	Ambassadors and Consuls in Spain.	—	" 30	" " " "	"
131	Consul General in Egypt.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 30	State of telegraph to Souakin	68
132	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay.	T.	" 30	Col. Lucas; ambulances; Col. Merewether.	"
133	India Office	War Office	—	" 30	Mule equipment; attendance of officers at Woolwich.	"
134	War Office	India Office	—	" 30	Mule equipment; attendance of Major Shervinton.	"
135	"	"	—	" 30	Harness - - - -	"
136	Col. Clark Kennedy	(Memorandum)	—	" 30	Mule depôts; articles required	69
137	India Office	War Office	—	" 30	Snider rifles and carbines	"
138	"	"	—	" 30	Shipment of stores	"
139	"	Horse Guards	—	" 30	Rank of Lieut.-Col. Merewether	70
140	Horse Guards	India Office	—	" 30	Col. Ross to proceed to Egypt	"
141	India Office	Horse Guards	—	" 31	" " " "	"
142	War Office	Foreign Office	—	" 31	Mules at Brindisi	71
143	India Office	Admiralty	—	" 31	Capt. Tryon to take charge of transport duties.	"
144	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 31	Mr. Parkyn; missionaries; transport in Red Sea; mules; mountain batteries; pack-saddles.	"
145	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 31	Bell tents - - -	"
146	Secretary of State for India.	Government of India	—	" 31	Drafts on India reduced; estimate of expenditure asked for.	"
147	" "	" "	—	" 31	Monthly statements of expenses called for.	72
148	" "	Government of Bombay.	—	" 31	Coin - - - -	"
149	War Office	India Office	—	" 31	Snider rifles and carbines	"
150	India Office	War Office	—	" 31	Snider rifles, carbines, and ammunition.	"
151	War Office	India Office	—	" 31	Mountain batteries; non-commissioned officers for.	73
152	India Office	Horse Guards	—	" 31	Mountain batteries and rockets; officers and non-commissioned officers for.	"

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
153	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	1867. Aug. 31	Mountain batteries : officers and non-commissioned officers for.	73
154	Transport Office -	India Office - -	—	" 31	Steam transports; provisions, medical comforts, and bedding sent.	74
	List of provisions and medical comforts.					
155	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 31	Hospital ships; medical and purveying staff for; sanitary officer.	75
	Memorandum by Army Medical Department.					
156	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 31	Mules; arrangements for provision and equipment.	76
	List of officers employed.					
157	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 31	Harness - - - -	77
158	Ambassador at Vienna	Foreign Office -	T.	Sept. 1	Dollars - - - -	"
159	Consul General at Naples.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 1	Mules at Brindisi - -	"
160	Consul General at Venice.	" "	—	" 2	Dollars - - - -	"
161	Consul General in Egypt.	" "	T.	" 2	Facilities in Egypt - -	78
162	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 2	Mule arrangements - -	"
163	" - -	Transport Officer in Egypt.	—	" 2	Conveyance of mules through Egypt.	"
164	" - -	" "	—	" 2	Conveyance of stores through Egypt.	"
165	" - -	Agent in Egypt -	—	" 2	Conveyance of mules and stores through Egypt.	79
166	" - -	War Office - -	—	" 2	Conveyance of mules and stores through Egypt.	"
167	War Office - -	Foreign Office -	—	" 2	Facilities for purchase of mules in the Levant and at Tunis.	"
168	Foreign Office -	Consuls in Mediterranean.	T.	" 2	Facilities for purchase of mules in the Levant and at Tunis.	80
169	" - -	War Office - -	—	" 2	Facilities for purchase of mules in the Levant and at Tunis.	"
170	" - -	" - -	—	" 2	Mules at Brindisi - -	"
171	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 2	Bell tents - - - -	"
172	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 2	Rank for Sir C. Staveley; facilities for landing in Egypt.	"
173	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 2	Hospital ships; arrangements for.	81
174	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 2	Mountain batteries - -	"
175	" - -	" - -	—	" 2	Suez Canal - - - -	"
	Letter from Agents of Suez Canal Company.					
176	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 2	Colonel Ross to give assistance	"
177	" - -	" - -	—	" 2	Railway; Sir J. Macneill's scheme.	82
	Letter from Sir John Macneill.					
178	Admiralty - -	India Office - -	—	" 2	Coal at Bombay - - -	"
179	Horse Guards - -	" - -	—	" 2	Mountain batteries and rockets; officers, &c. for.	83
180	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 2	Hospital ships; bedding, &c. for	"
	Letter from Director of Transport Service.					
181	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 2	Snider rifles, carbines, and ammunition.	"
182	Foreign Office -	India Office - -	—	" 3	Facilities from Viceroy of Egypt	84
183	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 3	Permission to pass through Egypt; rank of Col. Mere-wether.	"
184	Foreign Office -	India Office - -	—	" 3	Dollars - - - -	"
185	Mr. Larking - -	Foreign Office -	—	" 3	Passage through Egypt; camels	"
	Extract of letter from Nubar Pasha.					
186	Foreign Office -	(Memorandum)	—	" 3	Facilities in Egypt; mules and camels.	85
187	India Office - -	Transport Office -	—	" 3	Shipment of Snider rifles, carbines, and ammunition.	"
188	" - -	War Office - -	—	" 3	Hospital ships; bedding, &c. for	86
189	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 3	Signallers - - - -	"
190	Major Champain -	India Office - -	—	" 3	Field telegraph train - -	"

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
				1867.		
191	India Office -	Horse Guards -	—	Sept. 3	Rank for Sir C. Staveley -	90
192	Horse Guards -	India Office -	—	" 3	Rank for Lieut.-Col. Merewether	"
193	Secretary of State for India.	Government of Bombay	—	" 3	Preparations; survey of Red Sea; naval arrangements; lights of Red Sea; coal; transports; Capt. Tryon; hospital ships; stores from England; mules; pack-saddles and harness; Maltese carts; Snider rifles, carbines, and ammunition; mountain bat- teries; Hale's rockets; yeast; filters; field telegraph.	"
	Memorandum of stores under preparation. Memorandum of mountain equipment.					
194	Transport Office -	India Office -	—	" 3	Transport of stores through Egypt.	98
195	War Office -	" -	—	" 3	Shipment of stores -	"
196	" -	" -	—	" 3	Topographical staff, and photo- grapher.	"
197	" -	" -	—	" 3	Suez Canal -	"
	Letter from Agents of Suez Canal Company. Letter from Director of Suez Canal Company.					
198	Consul General in Egypt.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 4	Telegraph from Souakin to Massowah.	99
199	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.	T.	" 4	Rumoured release of captives -	"
200	Foreign Office -	Consul General in Egypt.	T.	" 4	" " "	"
201	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 4	Railway; Sir J. Macneill's plan	100
202	" -	Admiralty -	—	" 4	Transports; engagement of another vessel.	"
203	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 4	Mules - - -	"
204	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 4	Money at Aden; discontinuance of bills on Bombay.	"
205	" " -	" " -	T.	" 4	Transports for mules; number of mules; mountain trains; pack-saddles.	"
206	Treasury -	India Office -	—	" 4	Pamphlet by Dr. Beke, on vic- tualling in Red Sea.	101
207	War Office -	" -	—	" 4	Tools and forges -	"
208	Transport Office -	" -	—	" 4	Shipment of rifles and ammuni- tion.	"
209	Horse Guards -	" -	—	" 4	What regiments have been se- lected?	"
210	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 4	What regiments have been se- lected?	102
211	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 4	Collection of mules; officers sent to Egypt.	"
	Letter to Colonel Clark Kennedy. Memorandum of revised arrangements and instructions.					
212	Transport Office -	India Office -	—	" 4	Transport of mules through Egypt.	105
213	Consul General at Tunis.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 5	Mules scarce at Tunis -	106
214	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 5	" " -	"
215	Ambassador at Ma- drid.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 5	Mules in Spain -	"
216	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 5	Grant's distilling apparatus -	"
217	" -	" -	—	" 5	Railway; Sir J. Macneill's plan	107
	Letter from Sir John Macneill.					
218	India Office -	Director of Trans- ports.	—	" 5	Transport of stores through Egypt.	"
219	Horse Guards -	India Office -	—	" 5	Officers, &c. for mountain bat- teries and rockets.	108
	War Office to Horse Guards.					
220	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 5	Transports for mules to Egypt	"
221	War Office -	" -	—	" 5	Armourer-serjeants for Snider rifles, &c.	"
222	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 5	Armourer-serjeants for Snider rifles, &c.	109
223	" -	Horse Guards -	—	" 5	What regiments have been se- lected?	"
224	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 5	Stores for mule depôts, required by commissariat.	"

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
225	War Office -	India Office -	—	1867. Sept. 5	Stores for mule depôts required by Commissariat.	109
	List of stores.					
226	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 5	Tube wells -	110
227	" -	" -	—	" 5	Telegraph from Souakin to Massowah.	111
228	Consul General in Egypt.	Foreign Office -	T.	" 5	Rumoured release of the captives.	"
229	Ambassador at Vienna	" -	—	" 3	Dollars -	"
	Letter from M. Rothschild.					
230	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 6	" -	112
231	" -	War Office -	—	" 6	Mules in Spain -	"
232	Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 6	Rumoured release of the captives.	"
233	India Office -	Admiralty -	—	" 6	Transports for mules to Egypt	113
234	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 6	Books for Captain Tryon -	"
	List of publications.					
235	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 6	Waterproof sheets for detachment.	"
236	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 6	Mules reduced from 7,000 to 5,000.	114
237	" -	" -	—	" 6	Suez Canal -	"
238	" -	Transport Office -	—	" 6	" -	"
239	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 6	Coin at Aden ; mules reduced to 5,000.	"
240	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 6	Charts -	"
241	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 6	Bedding, &c. for hospital ships	115
242	Transport Office -	" -	—	" 6	List of iron screw transports -	"
	List of transports.					
243	Treasury -	India Office -	—	" 6	Mode of repaying India for expenditure.	116
	Treasury Minute.					
244	Mr. Larking -	Foreign Office -	—	" 7	Facilities in Egypt -	"
245	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 7	Veterinary Surgeon Lamb, Conductors Henderson and Lee.	"
246	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 7	Colonel Ross -	"
247	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 7	Number of mule transports, 5 or 7.	117
248	Quartermaster General.	" -	—	" 7	Pocket filters -	"
249	War Office -	" -	—	" 7	Freight for stores required for mules.	"
	Letter to Transport Office.					
250	Horse Guards -	India Office -	—	" 7	Rank for Sir C. Staveley -	118
251	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 7	" "	"
252	Mr. Brassey -	India Office -	—	" 7	Railway in Abyssinia -	"
	Estimate.					
253	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 7	Provisions, &c. for hospital ships.	119
	Letter from Transport Office to War Office. Opinion of Army Medical Department.					
254	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 7	Provisions, &c. for hospital ships.	120
255	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 7	Notification to King of matters being placed in Sir R. Napier's hands, requisite.	"
256	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 7	Officers sent to Egypt ; instructions for collection of mules : reduction of number.	"
257	" -	Major Champain -	—	" 7	Field telegraph and signalling apparatus ; Lieut. St. John.	121
258	" -	Horse Guards -	—	" 7	Field telegraph and signalling apparatus ; Lieut. St. John.	"
259	" -	Lieut. St. John -	—	" 7	Field telegraph -	"
260	" -	Admiralty -	—	" 7	Mule transports reduced to five	122
261	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 7	Supplies for mules -	"
262	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 8	British regiments selected -	"
263	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 9	Letter to King Theodore -	"
264	Admiralty -	" -	—	" 9	Number of mule transports -	153
	Letter from War Office to Admiralty.					

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
265	War Office -	India Office -	—	1867. Sept. 9	Suggestions of Mr. Banister as to a dromedary troop.	123
	Letter from Mr. Banister. Memorandum by Mr. Banister.					
266	Transport Office -	India Office -	—	" 9	Rice substituted for other vegetables.	124
267	War Office -	" -	—	" 9	Pack-saddles, Committee on -	125
268	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 9	Tools and forges -	"
269	" -	" -	—	" 9	Shipment of stores -	"
270	" -	Admiralty -	—	" 9	Veterinary Surgeon Lamb and Conductors Lee and Henderson.	"
271	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 9	Additional ammunition for mountain guns.	126
272	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 9	Letter to the King, making formal demand, and naming Sir R. Napier.	"
273	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 9	Letter to the King, making formal demand, and naming Sir R. Napier.	"
274	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 9	Commissariat Officer in Egypt to draw bills on London or Bombay.	"
275	Transport Officer in Egypt.	India Office -	T.	" 9	Suez Canal -	127
276	Ambassador at Stuttgart.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 7	Guide, named Contarini -	"
277	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 9	" of despatch to Bombay -	"
278	India Office -	Treasury -	—	" 9	Suez Canal -	"
279	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 9	Field telegraph stores -	128
280	Letter from Agents of Suez Canal Company. Secretary of State for India.		T.	" 10	Pocket filters -	"
281	India Office -	Quartermaster General.	—	" 10	Books, &c. for Capt. Tryon -	"
282	" -	Admiralty -	—	" 10	News from the captives -	"
283	Resident at Aden -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	Aug. 23		129
	Letter from Dr. Blanc.					
284	India Office -	War Office -	—	Sept. 10	Waterproof sheets for detachment.	130
285	" -	Treasury -	—	" 10	Dr. Beke's pamphlet on victualling in the Red Sea.	131
286	" -	War Office -	—	" 10	Suez Canal -	"
287	" -	" -	—	" 10	Railway; Sir J. Macneill's plan	"
288	" -	Horse Guards -	—	" 10	British regiments selected -	"
289	Transport Office -	India Office -	—	" 10	Sailing of transports -	132
290	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 10	Transport of mules across Egypt	"
291	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 10	Tube wells -	"
292	Consul General in Egypt.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	Aug. 28	Facilities for landing in Egypt, &c.	"
	Letter to Chérif Pasha.					
293	Consul General in Egypt.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 31	Egyptian telegraph to Souakin	133
294	" "	" "	—	" 30	Mr. Reade's offer of his services	"
295	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	Sept. 10	News from captives; facilities in Egypt; telegraph to Souakin; Mr. Reade.	134
296	India Office -	Admiralty -	—	" 10	Grant's and Normandy's distilling apparatus.	"
297	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 10	Corn sacks and stores for mules	"
	List of stores required by Commissariat.					
298	Horse Guards -	India Office -	—	" 10	Brevet; Sir C. Staveley and Col. Merewether.	135
299	Foreign Office -	War Office -	—	" 10	Purchase of mules -	"
300	India Office -	Resident at Aden -	—	" 10	Letter to the King -	"
301	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 11	" ; Sir R. Napier named.	136
302	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 11	Instructions to Capt. Tryon -	"
	Instructions.					
303	Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 3	Facilities for landing in Egypt; use of Syrian telegraph; collection of mules in Arabia.	"
304	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 11	" " "	137

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
				1867.		
305	India Office -	War Office -	—	Sept. 11	Copy of despatch to Bombay -	137
306	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 11	Mules; rank for Col. Merewether	138
307	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 11	Reserve of Snider ammunition	"
308	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 11	Reduction of mule transports to five.	"
309	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 11	Mr. Banister's suggestions as to a dromedary corps.	"
310	" -	" -	—	" 11	Additional ammunition for mountain guns.	"
311	" -	" -	—	" 11	Pack-saddles, Ordnance Select Committee to inspect.	139
312	" -	Transport Office -	—	" 11	Rice substituted for other vegetables.	"
313	Dr. Krapf -	India Office -	—	" 11	Accepting appointment of dra- goman, on certain terms.	"
314	Transport Office -	" -	—	" 11	Passage for Veterinary Surgeon Lamb and Conductors Hen- derson and Lee.	141
315	" -	" -	—	" 11	Twin screw tug-boat and barges	"
316	India Office -	Admiralty -	—	" 11	Charts -	142
317	Consul General in Egypt.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 11	Dollars -	"
318	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 12	" -	"
319	India Office -	Admiralty -	—	" 12	Mule transports reduced to five	"
320	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 12	Mountain batteries: Lieuts. Nolan and Chapman selected.	143
321	Governor of Bombay -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 12	Field telegraph stores -	"
322	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 12	Commissariat Officer in Egypt to draw bills on London or Bombay.	"
323	India Office -	Transport Office -	—	" 12	Transport of mountain batteries	"
324	" -	War Office -	—	" 12	Topographical Staff -	"
325	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 12	Corn sacks in mule ships -	144
326	Colonel Wray -	" -	—	" 12	Otago pack-saddle chosen -	"
327	War Office -	" -	—	" 12	" -	"
Reports of the Committee.						
328	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 12	Charts -	146
329	Consul General in Egypt.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 3	Facilities granted by Viceroy of Egypt; vessels and tele- graph.	"
330	India Office -	Transport Office -	—	" 13	Shipment of pack-saddles sus- pended.	147
331	" -	War Office -	—	" 13	Otago pack-saddle chosen -	"
332	Director of Ordnance	India Office -	—	" 13	" -	"
Report of Committee.						
333	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 13	Mules -	148
334	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 13	Contarini as a guide -	"
335	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 13	Field telegraph -	149
336	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 13	Dollars -	"
337	" -	Admiralty -	—	" 13	Instructions for Captain Tryon	"
338	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 13	Medical Staff for hospital ships; Sanitary Officer.	"
339	" -	" -	—	" 13	Issue of puggarees to detach- ments.	150
340	Foreign Office -	" -	—	" 13	Freezing machine; Mr. Whit- ford's invention.	151
341	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 13	Suez Canal -	"
342	Army Medical Depart- ment.	India Office -	—	" 13	Equipment of hospital ships -	"
343	Admiralty -	" -	—	" 13	Steam launches -	"
344	Transport Office -	" -	—	" 13	Transport of mountain batteries	152
345	Horse Guards -	" -	—	" 13	Photographers -	"
Letter from Director of Royal Engineer Establishment.						
346	Foreign Office -	Consul General in Egypt.	—	" 14	Contarini -	"
347	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 14	Facilities granted by the Viceroy of Egypt.	153

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
				1867.		
348	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	Sept. 14	Twin screw tug-boat and barges	153
349	India Office - -	Transport Office - -	—	" 14	" " " "	"
350	Admiralty - -	India Office - -	—	" 14	Normandy's condensers preferred to Grant's.	"
351	War Office - -	" - -	—	" 14	Reserve of Snider ammunition	154
352	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 14	Camels of Haddendowa tribe -	"
353	" " - -	" " - -	T.	" 14	Addition to British Medical Staff	"
354	India Office " - -	War Office - -	—	" 14	Addition to British Medical Staff; Sanitary Officer.	"
355	" " - -	" " - -	—	" 14	Equipment of hospital ships -	"
356	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 14	Leggings - -	155
	Letter from Horse Guards.					
357	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 14	Reduction of corn sacks in mule transports.	"
358	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 14	Railway : Mr. Curtis's plan -	"
	Letters from Mr. Curtis.					
359	Secretary of State for India.	Government of Bombay.	—	" 14	Field telegraph - -	157
360	" - -	" - -	—	" 14	Marking of stores - -	"
361	" - -	" - -	—	" 14	Facilities granted by Viceroy of Egypt; offer of ships.	"
362	" - -	" - -	—	" 14	Brevet; Sir C. Staveley and Col. Merewether.	"
363	India Office - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 14	Instructions for Sir R. Napier; proclamation.	158
364	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 14	Otago pack-saddle substituted -	159
365	Consul at Alicante	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 10	Payment for mules at Alicante	"
366	Foreign Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 16	" " " "	160
367	India Office - -	" - -	—	" 16	Tube well to be tested - -	"
368	" - -	" - -	—	" 16	Otago pack-saddles - -	"
369	" - -	" - -	—	" 16	Issue of puggarees to detachments.	"
370	" - -	" - -	—	" 16	Freezing machines; Mr. Whitford's invention.	161
371	" - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 16	Facilities in Egypt; telegraph to Souakin; Mr. Reade.	"
372	Hydrographer of Admiralty.	India Office - -	—	" 16	Charts - -	"
373	India Office - -	Admiralty - -	—	" 16	Steam launches - -	"
374	Governor General - -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 16	Insulators for telegraph -	"
375	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 16	Major Fraser's offer to bring a corps of the Nizam's Hushies; Scientific Staff; Dr. Krapf.	162
376	" " - -	" " - -	—	" 16	Preparations; coal; list of transports; instructions to Capt. Tryon; relief of troops not to be interrupted; stores; pack-saddles; ammunition; mountain batteries; telegraph; facilities in Egypt; telegraph to Souakin; Mr. Reade; Topographical Staff; charts; Contarini; Bonhomme as interpreter; Veterinary Surgeon Lamb and Conductors Henderson and Lee; Lieut.-Col. Lucas; various suggestions and inventions; filtering by means of alum.	"
	List of stores. Letter from R. Bonhomme. Letter from Col. MacMurdo. Memorandum by Capt. Cruttenden. Letters from Major Leveson. Letter from Messrs. Gray, Dawes, & Co. Letter from Vice-Admiral Coffin. Letter from Captain Bamber. Letters from Mr. Rae. Letter from Messrs. Tylor & Sons. Letter from Dr. Normandy. Letter from Mr. Calvert.					
377	Secretary of State for India.	Government of India	—	" 16	Copy of despatches to Bombay	172
378	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 16	Shipment of stores - -	173
379	" - -	" - -	—	" 16	Additional ammunition for mountain guns.	"
380	Consul at Alicante -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 12	Payment for mules at Alicante	"
381	Foreign Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 17	" " " "	"
382	" - -	Ambassador at Vienna	—	" 17	Dollars - -	"
383	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 17	Leggings - -	174

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
384	Italian Ambassador -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	1867. Sept. 16	As to two Officers of Italian army accompanying expedition.	174
385	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 17	As to two Officers of Italian army accompanying expedition.	"
386	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 17	Weight of packages for mules -	175
387	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 17	When will Sir R. Napier make his demand, and first brigade start ?	"
388	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 17	MacGwire hammocks -	"
389	" " -	" " -	T.	" 17	Purchase of mules in Egypt left to Col. Kennedy ; stores overland.	"
390	India Office -	Dr. Krapf -	—	" 17	Appointment as dragoman, with conditions.	"
391	Dr. Krapf -	India Office -	—	" 17	Abyssinian servant ; Mr. Haussmann.	176
392	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 17	Estimate of naval expenditure ; monthly accounts.	177
393	Treasury -	" -	—	" 17	Dr. Beke's pamphlet on victualing in the Red Sea.	"
394	War Office -	" -	—	" 17	Purchase of mules in Egypt by Bombay Officers.	"
395	India Office -	Col. Kennedy. War Office -	—	" 18	Purchase of mules in Egypt left to Col. Kennedy.	178
396	Quartermaster-General at Bombay.	India Office -	T.	" 18	Capt. Moore -	"
397	Mr. Bridgtower -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 18	Claim to throne of Abyssinia -	"
398	War Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 18	Payment for mules at places of collection.	180
399	" -	" -	—	" 18	Mule transports calling at Alicante and Valencia to be treated as military shipping.	181
400	India Office -	Major Champain -	—	" 18	Insulators for telegraph -	"
401	" -	President of Indian Medical Board.	—	" 18	Warburg's drops -	"
402	" -	War Office -	—	" 18	Additional ammunition for mountain guns.	"
403	" -	Horse Guards -	—	" 18	Photographers -	182
404	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 18	Dr. Krapf -	"
405	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 18	Progress in collection of mules	"
406	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 18	Weight of packages for pack animals.	183
407	Major Champain -	India Office -	—	" 18	Field telegraph equipment ; signallers.	"
List of stores.						
408	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 18	Letter to the King, in supersession of former letter.	186
Letter to the King.						
409	India Office -	Resident at Aden -	—	" 18	" " "	"
410	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	—	" 18	" " instructions to Sir R. Napier, promised.	187
411	" " -	Governor-General -	—	" 18	Letter to the King -	"
412	Major Champain -	India Office -	—	" 19	Telegraph insulators -	"
413	War Office -	" -	—	" 19	Leggings -	188
414	Transport Office -	" -	—	" 19	Passage for Veterinary Surgeon Lamb.	"
415	War Office -	" -	—	" 19	Covers and cases for pack-saddles.	"
416	Foreign Office -	" -	—	" 19	Dr. Krapf -	189
417	" -	" -	—	" 19	Mission from Greek and Coptic Patriarchs ; suggestion of Mr. Apostolides.	"
418	" -	War Office -	—	" 19	Mule transports in Spain to be military shipping.	"
419	" -	Consul General in Egypt.	T.	" 19	Dr. Krapf -	"
420	" -	Mr. Bridgtower -	—	" 19	Claim to throne of Abyssinia -	"
421	Colonel Wray -	India Office -	—	" 19	Adoption of Otago saddle for mountain equipment.	190

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
422	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	1867. Sept. 19	Adoption of Otago saddle for mountain equipment.	190
423	Governor of Bombay -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 19	Twin screw tug and barges -	191
424	Secretary of State for India.	Resident at Aden -	T.	" 19	Letter to the King cancelled, and another substituted.	"
425	" " -	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 19	Letter to the King cancelled ; preparations to proceed.	"
426	India Office - -	Transport Office -	—	" 19	Additional ammunition for mountain guns.	"
427	Mr. Prosser - -	India Office - -	—	" 19	Lime light - - -	192
428	India Office - -	Horse Guards - -	—	" 20	Signallers - - -	"
429	Horse Guards - -	India Office - -	—	" 20	Telegraphers - - -	"
430	Dr. Krapf - -	" - -	—	" 20	Religious discussions - -	"
431	India Office - -	Treasury, &c. - -	—	" 20	Copy of despatch - -	194
432	" - -	Major Champain - -	—	" 20	Weight of packages - -	"
433	" - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 20	Services of Mr. Apostolides -	"
434	Foreign Office -	India Office - -	—	" 20	Application of two Italian Officers to join the expedition.	195
435	India Office - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 20	Letter to King cancelled, and another substituted.	"
436	" - -	War Office - -	—	" 20	Medical Officers on board the hospital ships.	"
437	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Ambassador in Spain	—	" 20	Mule transports to be treated as military shipping.	"
438	Consul General at Constantinople.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 11	Mules and pack-horses in Turkey.	196
439	Consul at Cadiz -	" " - -	—	" 15	Mules in Spain - -	"
Letter to the Governor of Gibraltar.						
440	Foreign Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 20	Purchase of mules in Spain and Turkey.	197
441	Consul at Brindisi -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 20	" " at Brindisi	"
442	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 20	Management of mule depôts in Egypt left to Col. Kennedy.	"
443	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 20	Hammocks - - -	"
444	Government of India -	Secretary of State for India.	—	Aug. 17	Force required ; prospects of success ; Rev. P. Badger ; provision of funds.	198
Minute by						
	" " - -	" " - -	—			
	" " - -	" " - -	—			
	" " - -	" Sir H. Durand	—	" 18		
445	Government of Bombay.	Secretary of State for India.	—	" 24	Coal at Aden and Bombay -	204
446	" " - -	" " - -	—	" 24	Enfield rifle ammunition -	"
447	" " - -	" " - -	—	" 24	Amount, composition, and command of force ; time for preparations ; transport vessels ; landing place ; commissariat ; reserve ; facilities for landing in Egyptian territory.	205
448	" " - -	" " - -	—	" 24	Supply of money - -	206
Memorandum by Secretary to Government of Bombay.						
449	Inspector of Stores, India Office.	India Office - -	—	Sept. 20	Otago pack-saddle - -	207
450	War Office - -	" - -	—	" 21	" " for mountain equipment.	"
451	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 21	Covers and cases for pack-saddles.	"
452	" - -	Dr. Beke - -	—	" 21	Pamphlet - - -	"
453	" - -	Dr. Krapf - -	—	" 21	Dr. Krapf and Mr. Haussmann	208
454	Major Champain -	India Office - -	—	" 21	Weight of packages - -	"
455	Foreign Office -	Consul General in Egypt.	—	" 21	Mr. Keade's offer of his services	209
456	" - -	Consul at Alicante -	—	" 21	Purchase of mules - -	"
457	War Office - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 21	Mule transports to be treated as military shipping.	"
458	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Ambassador in Spain	T.	" 21	" " " "	"

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
				1867.		
459	Foreign Office -	War Office -	—	Sept. 21	Purchase of mules at Brindisi -	210
460	War Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 21	" " " -	"
461	Foreign Office -	Consul at Brindisi -	—	" 23	" " " -	"
462	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 23	Dr. Krapf and Mr. Haussmann -	"
463	Treasury -	India Office -	—	" 23	Expenditure; ordinary pay of troops to be borne by India; Officer to go to Bombay, for assistance in preparation of accounts.	211
Treasury Minute.						
464	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 23	Stores for Armstrong guns -	212
465	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 23	Management of mule depôts in Egypt left to Col. Kennedy.	"
466	" -	" -	—	" 23	Probable date of arrival of mules at Alexandria.	213
467	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 23	Col. Kennedy's proceedings in Egypt.	"
Letter from Col. Clark Kennedy.						
468	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 23	Otago pack-saddle -	214
469	" -	Transport Office -	—	" 23	Twin screw tugboat and barges	"
470	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 23	Weight of packages -	"
471	India Office -	Transport Office -	—	" 23	Shipment of stores by the "Serapis."	"
472	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 23	Major Fraser's offer to lead a party of Nizam's Hubshees; scientific gentlemen.	215
473	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 23	Tube wells -	"
474	Mr. Prosser -	" -	—	" 24	Lime light -	"
475	Bank of England	" -	—	" 24	Shipment of dollars -	"
476	Transport Office	" -	—	" 24	Shipment of stores by the "Serapis."	216
477	India Office -	Dr. Krapf -	—	" 24	Religious discussions -	"
478	Dr. Krapf -	India Office -	—	" 24	Mr. Haussmann; Abyssinian student and servants; religious discussions; correspondence with Native Chiefs.	"
479	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay -	T.	" 24	Number of mules required -	217
480	India Office -	Transport Office -	—	" 24	Bread-making machine for hospital ships.	"
481	" -	Quartermaster General at Bombay.	T.	" 24	Captain Moore -	"
482	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 24	Medical Officers required -	218
483	Mr. Plowden -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 24	Offer to write to the King -	"
484	Consul at Bilbao -	" " -	—	" 21	Spanish mountain artillery -	"
485	Dr. Beke -	India Office -	—	" 25	Pamphlet; land transport; coinage; personal employment.	219
486	India Office -	Major Champain -	—	" 25	Weight of packages -	"
487	" -	War Office -	—	" 25	Mules in Egypt; Colonel Kennedy's proceedings.	220
488	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 25	Ice for hospital ships -	"
489	Sir R. Martin -	" -	—	" 25	Warburg's fever drops -	"
490	India Office -	Treasury -	—	" 25	Financial arrangements; ordinary pay of troops borne by India; Officer deputed to Bombay to aid in examination of accounts; dollars; estimate.	221
491	Transport Office	India Office -	—	" 25	Bread-making machines and other fittings of hospital ships.	222
492	War Office -	" -	—	" 25	Issue of waterproof capes for a detachment.	"
493	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 25	Services of two Italian Officers	"
494	Agent in Egypt	India Office -	T.	" 25	Insurance of treasure -	"
495	War Office -	" -	—	" 25	Date of arrival of mules at Alexandria.	"
496	India Office -	Transport Officer in Egypt.	T.	" 25	Despatch of stores to Egypt -	223
497	" -	War Office -	—	" 25	Essence of watercress -	"
498	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 25	Diving apparatus -	"

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
499	India Office -	War Office -	—	1867. Sept. 26	Otago pack-saddles for mountain equipment.	223
500	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 26	Despatch of mules to Egypt -	224
501	India Office -	Transport Office -	—	" 26	Freight of stores -	"
502	" -	War Office -	—	" 26	Issue of waterproof capes; mule arrangements rest with War Office.	"
503	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 26	Report on tube wells -	"
	Letter from Director of Royal Engineer Establishment.					
504	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 26	Copy of letters from Governments of India and Bombay.	225
505	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 26	Dr. Krapf; religious discussions	226
506	" -	War Office -	—	" 26	Carbolic acid -	"
507	Consul in Corsica	Foreign Office -	—	" 21	Mules from Bastia -	"
508	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 27	" " -	"
509	India Office -	Dr. Beke -	—	" 27	Coin " -	227
510	" -	Lieut. Le Messurier -	T.	" 27	Services required for tube wells	"
511	Dr. Krapf -	India Office -	—	" 27	Acceptance of conditions	"
512	Secretary of State for India.	Agent at Alexandria -	T.	" 27	Insurance of treasure -	"
513	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 27	Ice for hospital ships -	"
514	Director of Ordnance	India Office -	—	" 27	7-pounder double shell for mountain guns.	228
515	Report of Ordnance Select Committee.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 18	Facilities from Viceroy of Egypt	"
	Letter from Raghib Pasha. Letter to Raghib Pasha.					
516	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 27	" " " " -	229
517	Ambassador at Vienna	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 24	Maria Theresa dollars -	"
518	Transport Officer in Egypt.	India Office -	—	" 18	Mules, transit of, through Egypt	230
519	" " -	" -	—	" 18	Stores " " -	"
520	War Office -	" -	—	" 27	Mule arrangements in Egypt; Syrian mules.	"
	Letter from Colonel Clark Kennedy.					
521	India Office -	Admiralty -	—	" 27	Diving apparatus -	232
522	Governor of Bombay -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 28	McDougall's deodorizing powder	233
523	Transport Officer in Egypt.	India Office -	T.	" 28	Arrangements for stores in Egypt	"
524	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 28	Double shell for mountain guns	"
525	" -	Transport Officer in Egypt.	—	" 28	Separate account of charges for Abyssinian expedition.	"
526	" -	War Office -	—	" 28	Transport of mules and stores through Egypt.	"
527	Mr. Laird -	Secretary of State for India.	—	" 28	Alleged refusal of iron transports at Bombay.	"
528	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 28	Telegraphers and signallers -	234
	Letter from Director of Royal Engineers. List of Telegraphers. List of Signallers.					
529	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 28	Photographers -	235
	List of Photographers.					
530	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 28	Request of Italian Officers to accompany the expedition.	236
531	Ambassador at Madrid	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 24	Purchase of mules in Spain -	"
	Letter to Señor Arrazola. Letter from Señor Arrazola.					
532	Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 27	Engagement of muleteers in Spain.	237
	Telegram from Vice-Consul at Valencia. Letter from do. do. Letter to Señor Arrazola.					
533	Acting Consul General in Syria.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 17	Purchase of mules in Syria -	238
	Letter from Colonel Kennedy to Consul General Rogers. Letter from Commissary-General Robinson to Colonel Kennedy.					

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
534	Consul at Smyrna -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	1867. Sept. 18	Purchase of mules at Smyrna -	239
535	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 30	Covers and cases for pack-saddles	240
536	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 30	Despatch of stores to Suez -	"
537	Governor of Bombay -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 30	Demand for release of prisoners	"
538	India Office -	Lieut. St. John -	—	" 30	Photographers -	"
539	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 30	Mules from Bastia -	241
540	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	—	" 30	Further preparations; strength of force; time of starting; transports; steam launches; stores; coal; mules; landing place; reinforcements; ice for hospital ships; hammocks; weight of packages; double shell for mountain guns; scientific gentlemen; photo- graphers; inventions; rail- way, &c.; Captain Moore; Italian Officers.	"
	List of stores. Letter from Mr. Prosser. Letter from Mr. Tucker. Letters from Messrs. McDougall. Letters from Surgeon-Major Wyatt.					
541	Secretary of State for India.	Government of India	—	" 30	Field telegraph train -	247
542	" "	" "	—	" 30	Acknowledging reply to Lord Stanley's inquiries; amount and constitution of force; pro- spects of success; command; Sir R. Napier; preparations.	248
543	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 30	Mules; 3,000 more required -	"
	Telegram from Colonel Kennedy.					
544	Agent at Alexandria -	India Office -	—	" 17	Dollars -	"
545	Major Champain -	" -	—	" 30	Signal rockets -	249
546	Lieut. Le Messurier -	" -	—	" 30	Bastier's chain pump -	"
547	Charge d'Affaires at Madrid.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 28	Engagement of muleteers in Spain.	250
	Letter from Vice-Consul at Valencia.					
548	Foreign Office -	War Office -	—	Oct. 1	Purchase of mules and engage- ment of muleteers in Spain.	"
549	Major Champain -	India Office -	—	" 1	Cost of signal apparatus -	"
	Letter from Director of Royal Engineers.					
550	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 1	Mr. Plowden's offer to write to the King.	251
551	" "	" "	—	" 1	As to a Netherlands Officer ac- companying expedition.	"
	Letter from Netherlands Chargé d'Affaires.					
552	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 1	Mules from Bastia -	252
553	" -	" -	—	" 1	British Medical Officers -	"
554	" -	" -	—	" 2	Engineer detachments to proceed by troop ship.	"
555	" -	Lieut. St. John -	—	" 2	" " " -	253
556	" -	Transport Office -	—	" 2	" " " -	"
557	" -	Quartermaster - Gene- ral.	—	" 2	" " " -	"
558	" -	War Office -	—	" 2	Purchase of donkeys or mules in Cyprus.	"
559	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 2	Name of one of the photographers	254
560	Bank of England -	" -	—	" 2	Shipment of dollars -	"
561	War Office -	" -	—	" 2	Railway; suggestions of Colonel Simmons.	"
	Letter from Deputy Quartermaster-General. " " Director of Royal Engineers. Table of distances and altitudes.					
562	Shipowners' Associa- tion at Liverpool.	Secretary of State for India.	—	" 2	Alleged refusal of iron transports at Bombay.	256
563	Quartermaster - Gene- ral.	India Office -	—	" 2	Time of departure of Engineer and Artillery detachments.	"
564	War Office -	" -	—	" 2	Progress in collection of mules	257
565	India Office -	Lieut. St. John -	—	" 3	Lime light -	"
566	" -	Mr. Prosser -	—	" 3	" -	258
567	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 3	Number of mules required -	"

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
568	India Office - -	Foreign Office - -	—	1867. Oct. 3	Mr. Plowden's proposal to write to the King.	258
569	Foreign Office - -	Mr. Plowden - -	—	" 3	" " " " -	"
570	India Office - -	Bank of England - -	—	" 3	Purchase and shipment of Maria Theresa dollars.	"
571	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 3	Telegraph line - -	259
572	Government of India	" "	—	Sept. 3	Composition of force, of Bengal as well as Bombay troops.	"
	Telegram from Sir R. Napier to the Viceroy. " " Viceroy to Sir R. Napier. Memorandum by Quartermaster-General of Bombay Army. Minute by Sir R. Napier, July 23. List of articles supplied to Persian expedition. Detail of force. Estimates of carriage. Minute by Sir R. Napier, Aug. 8. Letter from Government of India to Government of Bombay. Letter from Government of India to Adjutant-General. Orders to Commissariat and Ordnance Departments. " Controller-General of Military Expenditure. " Commissary-General. Letter from Government of India to Government of Bombay. Telegram from Government of Bombay to Government of India. Memorandum by Controller-General of Military Expenditure. Orders to " " Letter from Government of Bombay to Government of India. Resolution of Bombay Government. Inquiry put to Financial Department. Reply of " "					
573	Government of Bombay.	Secretary of State for India.	—	Sept. 4	Yeast - - - -	274
574	" - -	" "	—	" 4	Signallers - - -	"
575	" - -	" "	—	Aug. 28	Provision of funds - -	275
576	" - -	" "	—	Sept. 9	Money required at Aden ; discontinuance of bills on Bombay.	"
577	Transport Office -	India Office - -	—	Oct. 3	List of transports - -	"
	List of transports.					
578	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 3	Tube wells - - -	278
	Report of Lieut. Hurst.					
579	Resident at Aden -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	Sept. 6	News from the captives ; collection of camels.	279
580	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	Oct. 3	Issue of clothing, &c. to a detachment.	285
581	Treasury - -	"	—	" 3	Financial arrangements ; ordinary pay of troops to be borne by India ; deputation of an Officer to Bombay to aid in preparation of accounts ; instructions to Bombay Government ; assay of dollars.	"
582	War Office - -	" - -	—	" 3	Loan of pack-saddles for fitting telegraph equipment.	286
583	" - -	" - -	—	" 3	Hospital ships ; equipment and staff.	"
	List of stores on board hospital ships. " medical comforts " " " Medical and Purveying Staff. Instructions to Assistant Purveyor.					

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
584	Consul - General in Egypt.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	1867. Sept. 23	Mule arrangements in Egypt; facilities granted by the Viceroy.	292
585	Foreign Office -	War Office -	—	Oct. 3	Mule arrangements in Egypt; facilities granted by the Viceroy.	"
586	India Office -	" -	—	" 4	Tube wells -	"
587	" -	Lieut. Le Messurier -	—	" 4	" -	293
588	" -	Bank of England -	—	" 4	Dollars for assay -	"
589	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 4	Starting point of expedition -	"
590	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 4	As to Netherlands and Italian Officers accompanying the force.	294
591	Captain C. Johnson -	" -	—	Sept. 30	Pack-horses in Servia, Bulgaria, &c.	"
592	India Office -	War Office -	—	Oct. 4	Signal rockets -	295
593	" -	Major Champain -	—	" 4	" -	296
594	" -	War Office -	—	" 4	List of Medical and Purveying Officers in hospital ships requested.	"
595	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Consul - General in Egypt.	—	" 4	Facilities for mule arrange- ments in Egypt.	"
596	Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	Sept. 23	Collection of beasts of burden in Arabia and Persia.	"
Mr. Barron to Fuad Pasha. Fuad Pasha to Mr. Barron.						
597	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	Oct. 4	Collection of beasts of burden in Arabia and Persia.	297
598	War Office -	" -	—	" 4	Issue of clothing to a detach- ment.	298
599	Dr. Krapf -	" -	—	" 4	Mr. Haussmann's salary -	"
600	Secretary of State for India.	Dr. Krapf -	T.	" 4	" " -	"
601	India Office -	" -	—	" 4	Mr. Haussmann's engagement of Abyssinian servants.	"
602	Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	Sept. 23	Telegraphic communication by Syrian coast line.	"
Mr. Barron to Fuad Pasha. Fuad Pasha to Mr. Barron.						
603	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	Oct. 4	Telegraphic communication by Syrian coast line.	299
604	Consul at Brindisi -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	Sept. 24	Payment for mules at Brindisi	300
605	Chargé d'Affaires at Paris.	" "	—	Oct. 3	Conversation with M. Galinier	"
Letter from Colonel Claremont.						
606	Chargé d'Affaires at Paris.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 3	Messrs. Féret and Galinier's work.	301
Letter from Colonel Claremont.						
607	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 4	Messrs. Féret and Galinier's work.	"
608	Swedish Chargé d'Affaires.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 3	As to Professor of Mineralogy of Upsal accompanying the expedition.	"
609	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 4	As to a Swedish Professor of Mineralogy accompanying the expedition.	302
610	Transport Office -	" -	—	" 4	Transports to be numbered -	"
611	Quartermaster General.	" -	—	" 4	Number of photographers -	"
612	War Office -	Foreign Office	—	" 4	Facilities for Assistant-Com- missary-General Bailey in fitting up mule vessels at Mar- seilles.	303
613	India Office -	Mr. Dufton -	—	" 4	Engagement -	"
614	Mr. Dufton -	India Office -	—	" 5	" -	"

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
615	Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	1867. Oct. 3	Abyssinian residing in Switzerland.	304
616	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 5	Abyssinian residing in Switzerland.	"
617	Horse Guards -	" -	—	" 5	Artillery detachment for mountain batteries, &c.	"
List of detachment.						
618	India Office -	Horse Guards -	—	" 5	Conveyance of artillery detachment to Egypt.	305
619	" -	Major Champain -	—	" 5	Field telegraph train -	"
620	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 5	Letter to the King, and demand to be made by Sir R. Napier; time of starting.	"
621	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India	T.	" 5	Tramway; sailing of first detachment.	"
622	Governor-General -	" " "	T.	" 5	Veterinary Surgeons -	306
623	Foreign Office -	Consul at Marseilles -	—	" 5	Fitting up of mule transports by Assistant Commissary-General Bailey.	"
624	" -	War Office -	—	" 5	Fitting up of mule transports by Assistant Commissary-General Bailey.	"
625	War Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 5	Spanish mountain artillery -	"
626	India Office -	Bombay Medical Officers on furlough.	—	" 5	Ordered to return to duty -	307
627	" -	Bombay Medical Officers on sick leave.	—	" 7	" " " -	"
628	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 7	Rocket brigade -	"
629	War Office -	" -	—	" 7	Issue of clothing to a detachment.	308
630	" -	" -	—	" 7	Issue of puggarees to a detachment.	"
631	India Office -	Lient. St. John -	—	" 7	Name of one of the photographers.	"
632	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 7	Signal rockets -	"
633	Major Champain -	" -	—	" 7	Field telegraph train -	"
634	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 7	Mules from the Cape -	309
635	" " "	" " "	T.	" 7	Enfield rifle ammunition will not be sent.	"
636	Vice-Consul at Tunis	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	Sept. 27	Mules in Tunis -	"
Vice-Consul Werry to Secretary of State for War.						
637	War Office -	Foreign Office -	—	Oct. 7	Mules from Bastia -	310
638	Belgian Counsellor -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 7	As to Belgian Officers accompanying the force.	"
639	Consul-General in Egypt.	" "	T.	" 7	Offer of Viceroy of Egypt to mediate.	"
640	Colonel Blanc -	Horse Guards -	T.	" 7	Cossack horses -	"
641	India Office -	Mr. Dufton -	—	" 7	Instructions -	311
642	" -	Dr. Krapf -	—	" 7	Salary of Mr. Haussmann -	"
643	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 7	Purchase of beasts of burden in Arabia and Persia; as to restricting purchase of mules in the Levant.	"
644	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 7	Veterinary surgeons -	"
645	Secretary of State for India.	Government of Bombay.	—	" 7	India to bear ordinary pay of troops; monthly statements of all other expenses called for; accountant sent to Bombay; Maria Theresa dollars; expenditure to be kept down.	312
646	" " "	Government of India	—	" 7	Copy of preceding despatch -	"
647	India Office -	Quartermaster-General.	—	" 8	Number of photographers -	313
648	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 8	Transports to be numbered -	"
649	India Office -	Transport Office -	—	" 8	" " " -	"

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
650	India Office - - -	War Office - - -	—	1867. Oct. 8	Number of mules increased to 8,000.	313
651	War Office - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 8	Number of mules increased to 8,000.	"
652	" - - -	" - - -	—	" 8	Progress in purchase and freight of mules.	314
Memorandum.						
653	War Office - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 8	Mule arrangements in Egypt -	"
Letter from Colonel Kennedy.						
654	Dr. Krapf - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 8	Thanks, and departure of himself and Mr. Haussmann.	316
655	Transport Office - -	" - - -	—	" 8	Coal at Aden - - -	"
Letter from Peninsular and Oriental Company. Telegram from Agent at Aden.						
656	Horse Guards - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 8	Conveyance of artillery detachment to Egypt.	317
657	India Office - - -	War Office - - -	—	" 8	Starting point - - -	"
658	" - - -	Admiralty - - -	—	" 8	Alleged refusal of iron transports at Bombay.	"
659	War Office - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 9	Mule operations in Egypt; pack-horses; as to Colonel Kennedy's buying animals beyond Suez; muleteers.	"
Letter from Colonel Kennedy.						
660	War Office - - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 9	Facilities for transit of mules through Egypt.	319
661	" - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 9	Snider rifles for rocket brigade	"
Letter from Admiralty.						
662	Bank of England - -	India Office - - -	—	" 9	Shipment of dollars - - -	"
663	Colonel Blane - - -	Horse Guards - - -	T.	" 9	Cossack horses - - -	320
664	Staff Assistant Surgeon Neill.	India Office - - -	—	" 9	Medical suggestions - - -	"
665	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 9	Field telegraph requirements -	322
666	Lieut. Le Messurier -	India Office - - -	—	" 9	Tube wells - - -	"
667	India Office - - -	Commander-in-Chief of Expeditionary Force.	—	" 9	Dr. Krapf's credentials -	323
668	" - - -	War Office - - -	—	" 9	Pack-saddles for signalling and photographic apparatus.	"
669	" - - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 9	Abyssinian residing in Switzerland.	"
670	" - - -	Transport Office - -	—	" 9	Conveyance of artillery detachment by the "Serapis."	"
671	War Office - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 9	Issue of clothing to a detachment.	324
672	Dr. Beke - - -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 9	Reply to Mr. Rassam's statements.	"
673	Transport Officer in Egypt.	India Office - - -	—	Sept. 30	Risk of transporting stores by Suez Canal; arrangements for reception of stores.	328
674	India Office - - -	Foreign Office - -	—	Oct. 10	Facilities for Mr. Dufton and Mr. Haussmann.	329
675	Secretary of State for India.	Governor-General -	—	" 10	Dr. Krapf and Mr. Dufton -	"
676	India Office - - -	Resident at Aden -	—	" 10	Dr. Krapf and Mr. Dufton -	"
677	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Consul General in Egypt.	—	" 10	Mr. Dufton and Mr. Haussmann	"
678	Foreign Office - - -	India Office - - -	—	" 10	" "	330
679	India Office - - -	Transport Office - -	—	" 10	Passage of artillery detachment by the "Serapis."	"
680	" - - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 10	Ponies in Turkey, &c. - - -	"
681	" - - -	Transport Office - -	—	" 10	Freight of telegraph stores. -	"
682	Governor-General -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 10	Medical Officers required from England.	331

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
683	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	1867. Oct. 10	Railway; sailing of first detachment.	331
684	India Office - -	Admiralty - -	—	" 10	Rocket brigade - -	"
685	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 10	Organization of Engineer detachments.	"
	Letter from Horse Guards.					
686	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 10	MESSRS. Féret and Galinier's work.	332
687	" - -	" - -	—	" 10	Essence of water-cress - -	333
	Memorandum of Army Medical Department.					
688	Horse Guards - -	India Office - -	—	" 10	Passage of Artillery detachments by the "Serapis."	"
689	War Office - -	" - -	—	" 10	Issue of Snider carbines to artillery detachments.	"
690	Foreign Office - -	Consul in Corsica - -	—	" 10	Mules for Bastia - -	334
691	" - -	India Office - -	—	" 10	Request of some merchants at Genoa to join the expedition.	"
692	" - -	" - -	—	" 10	Mr. Soutter - -	"
693	" - -	Consul at Bilbao - -	—	" 10	Spanish mountain artillery - -	"
694	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Consul - General in Egypt.	T.	" 10	Offer of Viceroy of Egypt to mediate.	"
695	" "	" "	—	" 10	Offer of Viceroy of Egypt to mediate.	335
696	" "	Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.	—	" 11	Abyssinian residing in Switzerland.	"
697	Foreign Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 11	Abyssinian vocabulary - -	"
698	India Office - -	Transport Office - -	—	" 11	Passage of artillery detachments to Egypt.	"
699	" - -	Horse Guards - -	—	" 11	Conveyance of engineer detachments and stores.	336
700	" - -	Major Champain - -	—	" 11	Purchase of signalling apparatus.	"
701	Transport Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 11	Telegraph stores - -	"
702	India Office - -	Lieut. Le Messurier - -	—	" 11	Bastier's chain pumps - -	"
703	" - -	Transport Office - -	—	" 11	Coal at Aden; no return of Bombay transports received.	337
704	" - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 11	Telegraphic communication by Syrian coast line.	"
705	" - -	" - -	—	" 11	Facilities granted by Egyptian Government.	"
706	" - -	War Office - -	—	" 11	Railway; plan of Colonel Simmons.	338
707	" - -	" - -	—	" 11	Ponies in Servia, Bulgaria, and Turkey.	"
708	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 11	Fuzes for Armstrong guns - -	"
709	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 11	Prospects of mule purchases and freight.	"
	Memorandum.					
710	Captain Beaumont - -	Secretary of State for War.	—	" 11	Balloons - -	340
	Letter from President of Ordnance Select Committee.					
711	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 11	Camp hospital litter - -	"
712	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 11	Boxes for treatment of fractures.	"
713	Treasury - -	India Office - -	—	" 11	Mr. Markham's appointment as geographer.	"
	Letter from President of Geographical Society.					
714	Horse Guards - -	India Office - -	—	" 12	Cossack horses - -	341
	Letter from Colonel Blane.					
	Telegram from Colonel Blane.					
715	India Office - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 12	As to a Swedish professor of Mineralogy accompanying the expedition.	342
716	" - -	War Office - -	—	" 12	Austin's huts, hospitals, and stables.	"
717	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 12	List of medical and purveying officers on board hospital ships.	"
	List of Medical Officers.					
	List of Purveying Officers.					
718	Transport Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 12	Accommodation of Colonel Kennedy at Alexandria.	343

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
719	India Office -	War Office -	—	1867. Oct. 12	Mules; Colonel Kennedy's operations should not extend beyond Suez; mule-teers; pack-horses.	343
720	Foreign Office -	Dr. Beke -	—	" 12	Acknowledging reply to certain statements.	344
721	Dr. Krapf -	India Office -	—	" 12	Acknowledging letters of credential.	"
722	Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 10	Abyssinian residing at Geneva	"
	Letter from Dr. Sprenger.					
723	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 14	Issue of clothing to men on board hospital ships.	345
724	" -	" -	—	" 14	Boxes for double shells	346
725	" -	" -	—	" 14	Staff medical officers for British force.	"
	Letter from Horse Guards to War Office. Letter from Army Medical Department. List of staff medical officers.					
726	Agent at Alexandria -	India Office -	—	" 4	Treasure forwarded to Aden -	347
727	Bank of England -	" -	—	" 14	Maria Theresa dollars for assay	348
728	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 14	Rocket brigade -	"
729	Resident at Aden -	Secretary of State for India.	—	Sept. 28	Return of cancelled letter to the King.	"
730	Ambassador at St. Petersburg.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	Oct. 9	Cossack horses -	"
731	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 14	Mules from the Dardanelles -	349
732	" -	Transport Office -	—	" 14	Conveyance of telegraph and signalling stores.	"
733	" -	Horse Guards -	—	" 14	Passage of artillery detachments to Egypt.	"
734	" -	War Office -	—	" 14	Suggestions of Staff Assistant Surgeon Neill.	350
735	Mr. Plowden -	Foreign Office -	—	" 14	Draft of letter to the Emperor Theodorus.	"
	Mr. Plowden to King Theodore.					
736	Government of Bombay.	Secretary of State for India.	—	Sept. 14	Composition of force, preparations, &c.; as to Bengal and Madras troops going.	351
	Bombay Government to Government of India, Sept. 13.					
	Minute by Sir R. Napier, Sept. 5.					
	" Governor of Bombay, Sept. 8.					
	" Sir R. Napier, Sept. 8.					
	" Mr. Ellis, Sept. 9.					
	Madras Government to Bombay Government, Aug. 26.					
	Quartermaster General to Secretary to Government, Madras, Aug. 20.					
	Order of Madras Government, Aug. 26.					
	Telegram from Government of Madras to Government of Bombay, Aug. 26.					
	Bombay Government to Madras Government, Sept. 7.					
	Bombay Government to Madras Government, Sept. 13.					
737	War Office -	India Office -	—	Oct. 14	Mules and pack-horses -	360
738	Secretary of State for India.	Government of Bombay.	—	" 15	Further measures; coal at Aden; list of transports; numbering of transports; list of stores; despatch of stores to Suez; mountain batteries and artillery detachment; forage; Normandy's condenser; yeast; Enfield rifle ammunition not sent; Snider rifles; facilities for purchase of mules or pack-horses in Turkish Arabia, and Persia; mules from the Cape; increase of number of	"



No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
				1867.	mules to 8,000; harness; issues of clothing, &c.; passage of force through Egyptian territory; Syrian coast telegraph; starting point of expedition; list of establishments and stores in hospital ships; signallers, telegraph stores, and officers; tube wells; chain pumps; medical officers; essence of water-cress; railway, plan of Col. Simmons; as to laying down a tramway; Seyd Ali.	
	List of stores. Letter from Messrs. Goodliffe and Smart. Letter from Lieut.-General Chesney.					
739	Transport Office -	India Office -	—	Oct. 15	Conveyance of telegraph stores to Suez.	368
740	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 15	Sovereigns to be sent to Aden; 8,000 mules or pack-horses wanted.	369
741	" Office -	" " -	T.	" 15	Tramway - - -	"
742	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 15	Tube wells; recommendations of Director of Royal Engineers.	"
	Letter from Director of Royal Engineers.					
743	British Museum -	Secretary of State for India.	—	" 15	Archæologist - - -	370
744	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 15	Abyssinian residing at Geneva	371
745	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 15	Alleged preference of wooden to iron transports at Bombay.	"
746	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 15	Practice in engaging iron or wooden vessels as transports.	"
747	Mr. Laird -	" -	—	" 15	Alleged preference of wooden to iron transports at Bombay.	"
748	Consul at Smyrna -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 4	Purchase of mules or cattle at Smyrna.	372
749	Secretary of State for India.	Government of India -	—	" 15	Copy of despatch to Bombay -	"
750	" "	Government of Bombay.	—	" 15	Warburg's fever drops.	"
751	Rev. K. M. Phin -	Secretary of State for India.	—	" 15	Presbyterian chaplain for the force.	373
752	Transport Officer in Egypt.	India Office -	—	" 4	Bill for 100l. drawn -	"
753	Horse Guards -	" -	—	" 16	Conveyance of telegraph detachments, &c.	"
754	India Office -	Horse Guards -	—	" 16	Letter from India as to composition of the force.	374
755	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 16	Signal rockets -	"
756	Foreign Office -	" -	—	" 16	Mr. Plowden's letter to the King.	"
757	India Office -	Society for Promoting Christianity amongst Jews.	—	" 16	Vocabulary - - -	"
758	Quartermaster-General	India Office -	—	" 16	Conveyance of medical officers	"
759	" "	" -	—	" 16	Conveyance of Engineer detachments.	375
760	India Office -	Horse Guards -	—	" 16	Cossack horses -	"
761	Consul-General in Egypt.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	T.	" 16	Landing-place chosen; news from captives.	"
762	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 16	Sailing of part of advanced brigade.	376
763	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 16	Issue of clothing to a detachment.	"
764	"	" -	—	" 16	Issue of puggarees to a detachment.	"
765	" -	Transport Officer in Egypt.	—	" 16	Conveyance of stores through Egypt.	"
766	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 16	Return of cancelled letter to the King.	377
767	" -	War Office -	—	" 16	Boxes for double shells -	"
768	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 16	Cossack horses -	"
769	" -	Treasury -	—	" 16	Maria Theresa dollars for assay	"
770	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 16	Issue of helmets to a detachment.	"

No.	From.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
771	India Office -	War Office -	—	1867. Oct. 16	Organization of Engineer detachments.	378
772	Foreign Office -	Ambassador at St. Petersburg.	—	" 17	Cossack horses -	379
773	Vice-Consul Walker -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 17	Offer to give information -	"
774	India Office -	Bank of England -	—	" 17	Sovereigns to be sent to Aden	"
775	" -	Resident at Aden -	—	" 17	Sovereigns to be sent to Aden -	"
776	Bank of England -	India Office -	—	" 17	Cost of purchase and shipment of dollars.	380
Memorandum by Mr. Edlmann. Invoice.						
777	India Office -	Quartermaster - General.	—	" 17	Conveyance of medical officers to Egypt.	381
778	" -	Mr. Laird and Ship-owners' Association.	—	" 17	Alleged preference of wooden over iron transports.	382
779	Director of Ordnance	India Office -	—	" 17	Mountain equipment -	"
Memorandum by Colonel Wray.						
780	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 17	Veterinary surgeons -	385
781	Society for promoting Christianity amongst Jews.	" -	—	" 17	Vocabulary -	386
782	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay -	T.	" 17	When should medical officers be at Suez?	"
783	Zoological Society -	Secretary of State for India.	—	" 17	Zoologist to accompany the expedition.	"
784	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 17	Medical officers -	387
785	Secretary of State for India.	Government of Bombay.	—	" 18	" -	"
786	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 18	Offer of Viceroy of Egypt to mediate.	388
787	War Office -	" -	—	" 18	Dubbing -	"
Letter from Deputy Assistant Adjutant General.						
788	Bank of England -	India Office -	—	" 18	Shipment of sovereigns to Aden	"
789	India Office -	Transport Office -	—	" 18	Conveyance of Engineers and telegraph stores, &c.	389
790	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 18	Collection and freight of mules and pack-horses.	"
Memorandum on state of depôts. freight arrangements.						
791	India Office -	Transport Officer in Egypt.	—	" 18	Transport of mountain batteries through Egypt.	390
792	" -	War Office -	—	" 18	Office accommodation for Colonel Kennedy.	"
793	" "	" "	—	" 18	Conveyance of medical officers to Egypt.	"
794	" "	Lieutenant Le Mesurier.	—	" 18	Inspection of tube wells -	391
795	Secretary of State for India.	Government of Bombay.	—	" 18	Departure of portion of first brigade; Sir R. Napier to communicate direct with England.	"
796	" "	" "	—	" 18	Remittance of dollars and sovereigns to Aden.	"
797	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 18	Mr. Plowden's letter to the King.	392
798	" -	Resident at Aden -	—	" 18	Amharic dictionary and grammar.	"
799	" -	Foreign Office -	—	" 18	Abyssinian residing at Geneva -	"
800	Governor of Bombay -	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 18	McGwire hammocks -	"
801	" "	" "	T.	" 18	Rocket batteries -	"
802	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 18	Gauge for tramway -	"
803	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 18	Issue of clothing to a detachment.	393
804	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 19	Postal arrangements -	"
805	India Office -	Major Champain -	—	" 19	Signal rockets -	"
806	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 19	Rocket brigade -	"
807	Transport Officer in Egypt.	" -	—	" 11	Cash account for September -	394
808	India Office -	Quartermaster - General.	—	" 19	Conveyance of Engineers and stores to Egypt.	"

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
809	Foreign Office	India Office -	—	1867. Oct. 19	Passage of troops through Ottoman territory.	394
	Letter from Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople. Mr. Barron to Fuad Pasha. Fuad Pasha to Mr. Barron.					
810	Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 8	Captain Webber purchasing mules; letters of introduction for him.	395
811	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Italian Ambassador -	—	" 19	As to foreign officers accompanying the expedition.	"
812	Mr. Scarlett -	Foreign Office -	—	" 19	Information by Mr. Cuelebroeck	396
	Letter from Mr. Cuelebroeck.					
813	Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.	Italian Ambassador in London.	—	" 15	Mediation of Bishop Massaia and Italian Missionaries.	397
814	Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid.	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 17	Engagement of Spanish muleteers.	398
	Señor Arrazola to Mr. West. Consul Barrie to Mr. West. Vice-Consul Barrie to Consul Barrie. Captain-General of Valencia to Vice-Consul Barrie.					
815	Foreign Office	War Office -	—	" 21	Engagement of Spanish muleteers.	399
816	India Office -	Foreign Office -	—	" 21	Offer of Viceroy of Egypt to mediate.	"
817	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 21	Passage of medical officers	"
	Letter from the Horse Guards.					
818	Major Champain -	India Office -	—	" 21	Signal rockets -	400
819	Foreign Office -	" -	—	" 21	As to permitting foreign officers to accompany the expedition.	"
820	Quartermaster-General.	" -	—	" 21	Pocket filters -	"
821	Director of Transports	" -	—	" 21	Freight of telegraph stores and detachment.	401
822	Government of India	Secretary of State for India.	—	Sept. 23	Composition of the force; preparations.	"
	Letter from Quartermaster-General, Aug. 29. Letter to Quartermaster-General, Aug. 31. Correspondence respecting coal.					
	"	Madras troops.				
	"	mules and ponies.				
	"	constitution of force.				
	"	tonnage.				
	"	aid of Madras commissariat officers.				
	"	ordnance equipment.				
	"	selection of Bengal regiments.				
	"	telegraph train.				
	"	surveying party.				
	"	scientific observer, Mr. Blandford.				
	"	relief of regiments.				
823	Government of Bombay.	Secretary of State for India.	—	" 28	Further preparations; surveying vessel; Commodore Heath's co-operation; Capt. Tryon; transport arrangements; mules and pack-horses in Egypt; land transport corps; mountain batteries; rocket brigade; first detachment sent to make preparations at landing-place; transport of animals; despatch boat; constitution of the force modified; aid of Madras Government in giving engineer and commissariat officers; scientific gentlemen; instructions to Colonel Merewether.	421
	Letter to Transport Officer in Egypt as to surveyors. Correspondence with Commodore Heath. Correspondence respecting land transport corps and commissariat department. Instructions to Colonel Merewether.					

No.	FROM.	To.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
824	Government of Bom- bay.	Secretary of State for India.	—	1867. Sept. 28	Commissariat officer at Suez, drawing bills on London.	443
825	Foreign Office -	Mr. Plowden -	—	Oct. 22	Mr. Plowden's letter to the King.	444
826	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 22	Jeffrey Bey -	"
	Letter from Mr. Manby.					
827	India Office -	Horse Guards -	—	" 22	As to officers taking servants with them.	"
828	" -	War Office -	—	" 22	Engineer and medical officers, &c., to proceed in the "Men- doza."	"
829	" -	Quartermaster Gene- ral.	—	" 22	Engineer and medical officers, &c., to proceed in the "Men- doza."	445
830	" -	Lieuts. St. John and Le Messurier.	—	" 22	To embark in the "Mendoza" for Egypt.	"
831	" -	Transport Officer in Egypt.	—	" 22	Stores and troops sent in the "Mendoza."	"
832	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 22	Mules and pack-saddles -	"
833	Admiralty -	India Office -	—	" 22	Mr. Turner to proceed to Bom- bay, to aid in adjusting the accounts.	446
834	Foreign Office -	" -	—	" 22	Mr. Walker's offer to give in- formation.	"
835	Consul in Corsica -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 16	Mules from Bastia -	"
836	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.	—	" 23	Abyssinian residing at Geneva	"
837	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 23	Extra assistant-surgeons for hospital ships.	"
	Letter from Army Medical Department. Letter from Inspector-General at Bombay.					
838	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 23	Carrying strap -	447
	Minute by President of Ordnance Select Committee.					
839	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 23	Freezing machines; Keith's preferred.	448
840	Bank of England -	" -	—	" 23	Shipment of sovereigns to Aden.	"
841	" -	" -	—	" 23	Shipment of dollars to Aden -	449
842	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	Italian Ambassador -	—	" 23	Mediation of Bishop Massaia; letter returned.	"
843	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 23	Signal rockets -	"
844	" -	" -	—	" 23	Dubbing -	"
845	War Office -	India Office -	—	" 24	Mules -	"
	Letter from Messrs. Grazebrook.					
846	India Office -	Treasury -	—	" 24	Zoologist -	450
847	Quartermaster - Gene- ral.	India Office -	—	" 24	As to "Mendoza" taking medi- cal officers from Gibraltar and Malta.	"
848	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 24	Medical officers -	"
849	India Office -	War Office -	—	" 24	Mules and pack-horses -	451
850	" -	" -	—	" 24	" -	"
851	" -	" -	—	" 24	Veterinary surgeons -	"
852	" -	Rev. K. M. Phin -	—	" 24	Presbyterian chaplain -	"
853	" -	Foreign Office -	—	Oct. 24	Mr. Walker's offer to give infor- mation.	452
854	Secretary of State for India.	Government of India -	—	" 24	Sir R. Napier to report direct to England.	"
855	Mr. Plowden -	India Office -	—	" 24	Letter to the King -	"
856	India Office -	Captain Beaumont -	—	" 25	Balloons -	"
	Memorandum by President of Ordnance Select Committee.					
857	Consul at Trieste -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 15	Mules from Trieste -	453
	Letter from M. Baldini.					
858	Foreign Office -	India Office -	—	" 25	" -	454
859	Quartermaster - Gene- ral.	" -	—	" 25	Inspection of the "Mendoza;" number to embark.	"

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT	Page.
860	Quartermaster General.	India Office -	-	1867. Oct. 25	Lieutenant McMahon's pack-saddles.	454
	Letter from Lieut. McMahon.					
861	India Office -	War Office -	-	" 25	Tube wells ; 100 ordered -	455
862	" -	" -	-	" 25	Medical and purveying departments in hospital ships.	"
863	" -	Transport Office -	-	" 25	Ice machines for hospital ships	"
864	" -	Treasury -	-	" 25	Mr. Markham's remuneration -	456
865	" -	Foreign Office -	-	" 25	As to foreign officers accompanying the expedition.	"
866	" -	Treasury -	-	" 25	Archæologist -	"
867	" -	Society for promoting Christianity amongst Jews.	-	" 25	Vocabulary -	"
868	" -	Transport Office -	-	" 25	Payment for conveyance of telegraph stores to Suez.	457
869	Governor of Bombay	Secretary of State for India.	T.	" 25	Postal arrangements -	"
870	War Office -	India Office -	-	" 25	Organization of Engineer detachments.	"
	Letter from Horse Guards.					
871	Resident at Aden -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	-	Sept. 28	Presents for the King of Shoa -	458
872	" -	Secretary of State for India.	-	Oct. 9	News from the captives -	"
	Letter to Bombay Government.					
873	Foreign Office -	Vice-Consul Walker -	-	" 26	Offer to give information -	459
874	" -	Resident at Aden -	-	" 26	Presents to King of Shoa -	460
875	War Office -	India Office -	-	" 26	Suggestions of Assistant-Surgeon Neill.	"
876	Transport Office -	" -	-	" 26	Cost of conveyance of telegraph stores to Suez.	"
877	Quartermaster - General.	" -	-	" 26	No passage required for Surgeon Madden's servant.	"
878	War Office -	" -	-	" 26	Austin's portable huts -	461
	Minute of Quartermaster-General.					
879	India Office -	War Office -	-	" 26	Mules -	"
880	" -	" -	-	" 26	Organization of detachments of Royal Engineers.	"
881	" -	" -	-	" 26	Extra assistant surgeons for hospital ships.	"
882	" -	Transport Officer in Egypt.	-	" 26	Conveyance of officers through Egypt.	462
883	Foreign Office -	India Office -	-	" 26	Information given by M. Cuelebroeck.	"
884	Capt. Beaumont -	" -	-	" 27	Balloons -	"
885	Sir Samuel Baker -	Foreign Office -	-	" 27	Proposal to send an Envoy and small force from Souakin.	463
886	Mr. Dupuis -	" -	-	" 28	Mules from Morocco ; dates -	464
887	Admiralty -	India Office -	-	" 28	Expenses chargeable to naval votes.	"
	Memorandum.					
888	India Office -	Quartermaster - General.	-	" 28	Inspection of the "Mendoza;" number of detachments to be conveyed cannot be increased; conveyance of the party through Egypt.	466
889	" -	Horse Guards -	-	" 28	Horses on board the "Mendoza."	467
890	" -	Quartermaster - General.	-	" 28	"Mendoza" cannot call at Gibraltar and Malta.	"
891	" -	" "	-	" 28	Lieutenant McMahon's pack-saddles.	"
892	" -	Mr. Plowden -	-	" 28	Letter to the King -	"
893	War Office -	India Office -	-	" 28	Instructions to sanitary officer -	"
	Memoranda of instructions.					
894	India Office -	War Office -	-	" 29	Officers not to be accompanied by servants.	471
895	" -	Foreign Office -	-	" 29	Mules from Trieste -	472
896	" -	Admiralty -	-	" 29	Co-operation of Commodore Heath ; appointment of Capt. Tryon.	"
897	" -	Transport Officer in Egypt.	-	" 29	Cash account for September -	"

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
888	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	1867. Oct. 29	Signalling apparatus; inspection and packing.	472
	Letter from Deputy Adjutant-General of Engineers.					
	Letter from Director of Engineer Establishment.					
899	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 29	Mules in Egypt - -	473
	Telegram from Colonel Kennedy.					
900	Secretary of State for India.	Governor of Bombay	T.	" 29	Compressed vegetables -	"
901	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 29	Hospital stretcher - -	474
902	Horse Guards - -	" - -	—	" 29	Officers not to be accompanied by servants.	"
	Letter from Army Medical Department.					
903	Foreign Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 29	Mediation of Italian missionaries.	"
904	Foreign Office - -	Sir Samuel Baker - -	—	" 29	Supplementary expedition -	475
905	" - -	India Office - -	—	" 29	Sir S. Baker's proposal for a supplementary expedition.	"
906	Transport Office - -	" - -	—	" 29	Ice machines for hospital ships; Keith's plan.	"
907	War Office - -	" - -	—	" 29	Tools for Engineer detachments.	"
908	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 29	Tools for Engineer detachments; number of men to be conveyed on the "Mendoza" cannot be increased.	476
909	Quartermaster-General.	India Office - -	—	" 29	Organization of Engineer detachments into a company; conveyance of rest of the men.	"
	Minute by Deputy Adjutant-General of Engineers.					
910	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 29	Clothing for Royal Engineers -	477
911	India Office - -	Mr. Markham - -	—	" 29	Permission to accompany the force as geographer.	"
912	" - -	Resident at Aden - -	—	" 29	Mr. Plowden's letter to the King.	"
913	" - -	Italian Ambassador - -	—	" 30	Mediation of Italian missionaries.	"
914	Dr. Beke - -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	—	" 30	Pamphlet on "Commerce and Politics of Abyssinia."	478
915	India Office - -	Foreign Office - -	—	" 30	Information given by M. von Cuelebroeck.	"
916	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 30	Extra assistant surgeons for hospital ships.	"
917	" - -	" - -	—	" 30	Lieutenant-Colonel Milward -	479
918	India Office - -	Captain Beaumont - -	—	" 30	Balloons - -	"
929	Treasury - -	India Office - -	—	" 30	Archæologist, Mr. Deutsch -	"
	Treasury Minute.					
920	Treasury - -	India Office - -	—	" 30	Zoologist - -	480
921	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 30	Instructions to sanitary officer -	"
922	Treasury - -	India Office - -	—	" 30	Mr. Markham's remuneration -	"
923	War Office - -	" - -	—	" 30	Code of signals - -	481
	Memorandum.					
924	India Office - -	War Office - -	—	" 30	Mules from Trieste - -	"
925	" - -	Admiralty - -	—	" 31	Rocket brigade - -	482
926	" - -	Lieutenant St. John - -	—	" 31	Inspection and packing of signalling apparatus.	"
927	" - -	War Office - -	—	" 31	Inspection and packing of signalling apparatus.	"
928	" - -	Staff Assistant Surgeon Neill.	—	" 31	Medical suggestions; offer of service.	"
929	" - -	Transport Office - -	—	" 31	Cost of conveyance of telegraph stores.	483
930	" - -	Quartermaster-General.	—	" 31	Pocket filters - -	"
931	War Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 31	Signal rockets - -	"
932	India Office - -	Sir Samuel Baker - -	—	" 31	Supplementary expedition -	484
933	Foreign Office - -	India Office - -	—	" 31	Mr. Walker's offer of his services.	"
	Letter from Vice-Consul Walker.					
934	Bank of England - -	India Office - -	—	" 31	Shipment of dollars - -	"
935	India Office - -	Quartermaster-General.	—	" 31	Organization and conveyance of Engineer detachments.	485
936	Treasury - -	India Office - -	—	" 31	Mr. Turner to proceed to Bombay to aid in preparation of accounts.	"
	Instructions to Mr. Turner.					

No.	FROM.	TO.	If by Tele- graph.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page
937	Secretary of State for India.	Government of Bom- bay.	—	1867. „ 31	Alleged refusal of iron trans- ports at Bombay.	486
938	„ - -	„ „	—	„ 31	Mr. Markham's appointment as geographer.	487
939	„ - -	„ „	—	„ 31	Further preparations ; approval of measures ; co-operation of Commodore Heath ; appoint- ment of Captain Tryon, and transport arrangements ; mountain batteries ; Colonel Wray's report ; rocket bri- gade ; " Mendoza ;" medical officers ; extra assistant sur- geons for hospital ships ; apparatus for treatment of fractures ; instructions to sanitary officers ; suggestions of Assistant-Surgeon Neill ; veterinary surgeons ; organi- zation of 10th company of Royal Engineers ; tube wells ; mules and pack-saddles ; Lieut. McMahon's principle ; McCwire hammocks ; weight of packages ; Armstrong gun stores ; list of stores ; passage of troops through Egyptian territory ; as to foreign officers accompanying the expedition ; Presbyterian chaplain ; voca- bulary ; M. Galinier's infor- mation ; railway ; Mr. Had- don's pontoon plan ; Jeffrey Bey ; issue of clothing ; Lieut.- Colonel Milward.	„
	List of officers on board the "Mendoza." Return of stores. Letter from Mr. Haddon.					
940	Secretary of State for India.	Government of India	—	„ 31	Copy of despatch to Bombay ; medical officers.	495

PAPERS

CONNECTED WITH

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

No. 1.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
July 10th, 1867.

How soon, if an expedition to Abyssinia were determined on, could the force be ready to start from Bombay fully equipped and provisioned; and what assistance from home would you require?

No. 2.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 12th July 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant,* forwarding copy of a letter from the Foreign Office relative to the measures to be taken for obtaining the release of the British captives in Abyssinia, and requesting such information as shall enable the Secretary of State for War to answer Lord Stanley's inquiries.

* See page 179 of the Blue Book of 1867.

2. In reply, I am to request you will inform Sir J. Pakington that Sir Stafford Northcote will take the earliest opportunity of communicating with the Governments of India and Bombay upon the subject, with a view of obtaining from those Governments an expression of opinion upon the several points noticed in Lord Stanley's letter of the 25th June, as well as such further information as those Governments may be in a position to offer upon the subject generally, and will cause a further communication to be addressed to you upon the receipt of their replies.

3. With reference to the suggestion contained in the concluding paragraphs of your letter, that it may be advisable, as a preliminary step, to instruct Major-General Sir W. Coghlan to proceed to Massowah, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Badger and selected officers from the Medical, Commissariat, and Quartermaster-General's Departments, for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for the force, I am desired to state that, on learning that such directions have been given to Sir W. Coghlan, the Government of Bombay will be desired, by telegraph, to order the officers selected to meet Sir W. Coghlan at Aden, or any other point which may be preferred.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 3.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
July 13th, 1867.

In reply to No. 1.

I have asked the Military Department to furnish a confidential report, so as not to attract attention, and will send it when it is received. As the Commissariat will take the longest time, and the Commissary-General says four months, this may be assumed as the probable time. The carriage will be the principal difficulty. Only blankets will be wanted from home. If the expedition be determined on, early orders are requested.

No. 4.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

Military, No. 201.

Sir,

India Office, 17th July 1867.

I forward for your Excellency's information copy of a communication I have received from the War Office, enclosing a letter from Lord Stanley, relative to the present state of Affairs in Abyssinia.

2. The inquiries of Lord Stanley are evidently framed upon the assumption that the Imperial Government, if compelled to resort to force for the release of the British subjects now in captivity in that country, would desire that the force should be equipped at and take its departure from Bombay. I have considered it proper, therefore, with a view of saving time, to refer the correspondence direct for the consideration of the Government of that Presidency; and I forward for your Excellency's information copy of my Despatch upon the subject.

3. I shall be glad, however, to be favoured with the opinion of your Excellency in Council at as early a date as possible.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 5.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 86.

Sir,

India Office, 17th July 1867.

I forward, for the consideration of your Excellency in Council, copy of a letter from the Secretary of State for War, with enclosure, having reference to the measures which it may be found necessary to adopt, with a view to the release of certain British subjects now under restraint in Abyssinia.

2. Your Excellency will observe, from the enclosed letter from Lord Stanley to the Secretary of State for War, that, although there is no present intention of having recourse to hostile measures, Her Majesty's Government consider it desirable that they should be furnished with all the necessary information, in case of such measures becoming hereafter inevitable. With this view, Lord Stanley is desirous of obtaining advice and information upon the following points:—

- I. What amount of force is considered needful? What should it consist of? And, by whom should it be commanded?
- II. Assuming Bombay to be the base of operations, how long, after receiving from England orders to prepare the force, would it take to ensure its being ready for service?
- III. What arrangements would be made for its transport?
- IV. At what point would it be proposed to land it, bearing in mind that it is essential, if possible, to avoid landing on Egyptian territory?
- V. What commissariat arrangements would be requisite?
- VI. What reserve would be necessary to ensure success, and how is it proposed to keep this supplied?
- VII. Whether any and what preliminary steps would have to be taken?

3. The nomination of the Officers to command the expedition, if finally determined upon, would rest with the authorities in this country; but I request that I may be furnished, at the earliest date possible, with the opinion of your Excellency in Council upon the other several points noticed in the above extract from Lord Stanley's letter, and with such further information bearing upon the subject as your Excellency may be in a position to afford.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 6.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
July 18th, 1867.

The time required will be longer, owing to the difficulty of getting mules enough; perhaps 500 can be obtained here and two or three thousand elsewhere, but I cannot say till we try. We shall want many thousand more. Other carriage must be performed by camels; some can be got here, the rest from Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Their purchase must be commenced as soon as the expedition is decided upon. The other arrangements will take three months. The force mentioned in your private letter is larger than Colonel Merewether asked; a reduction would make a great difference.

No. 7.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
July 25th, 1867.

Take the necessary steps at once to obtain information respecting an expedition to Abyssinia, in case we decide on one. Let such Officers as Sir Robert Napier thinks necessary be sent to make inquiries on the spot, and to communicate with Colonel Merewether. Request Sir R. Napier to give me his advice as to the amount of the force, plan of operations, and other particulars.

(A similar communication was made to the Governor General.)

No. 8.

Telegram from the Governor General to the Secretary of State for India,
July 26th, 1867.

In reply to
No. 7.

I have received your telegram regarding Abyssinia, and have made the necessary communication to the Governor of Bombay and Sir Robert Napier.

No. 9.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Political Resident at Aden,
July 26th, 1867.

Instructions will be given to you by Sir Robert Napier, with a view to possible operations.

No. 10.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
July 27th, 1867.

What is the latest date at which operations in Abyssinia can be commenced, with the prospect of finishing them this season? Can you have a sufficient force ready by that time? When should the collection of transport animals be commenced? Will you be able to provide adequate despatch boats, to be placed at the disposal of Colonel Merewether?

No. 11.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
July 28th, 1867.

In reply to
No. 7.

I had already asked Sir Robert for such a memorandum, and sent it by the last mail. Colonel Merewether was summoned to come here some days ago, and I will send the Officers when we have seen him. No steamer, however, will be available till the next mail.

No. 12.

reply to
o. 10.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
July 29th, 1867.

The operations ought to commence by January, in order to be finished in one season. I can have the force ready in time, provided only that I can obtain animals, which should be collected immediately. We shall want waggons and some stores from home. To obtain transports now is easy, but, if the decision is long delayed, we must use new transport ships.* It would have been better to have commenced earlier.

No. 13.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
July 31st, 1867.

Prepare at once to collect transport animals. Can you get the despatch boats?

No. 14.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 1st, 1867.

Collect the transport animals, and make known to us without delay what you require from England. Tell the Government of India.

No. 15.

The Political Resident at Aden to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (received
August 5th).

My Lord,

Massowah, 11th July 1867.

I have the honour to report for your information, that I arrived here last night, and found letters from Magdala up to the 12th ultimo. All the captives were well up to that date, and, as will appear from the intelligence, in a more favourable position than when they last wrote. But I regret to say that the situation of the Europeans at Debra Tabor, including Mrs. Rosenthal, Mrs. Flad, and their children, was most perilous.

2 M. Munzinger had returned the evening before from his trip *via* Amphilla, bringing very valuable information, which I shall have the honour of submitting in a separate Despatch.

3. Mr. Rassam writes first on the 20th May, "I have very little to say by this opportunity, as the enclosed note from Mr. Flad to me will give you all the news. The messenger I had despatched to the Emperor, at the end of last month, has not yet returned, and I am most anxiously awaiting intelligence about his reception, after the late interview of His Majesty with Mr. Flad. I hope and trust we shall be allowed to spend next winter (the rainy season) in our present position, otherwise I fear we shall have to endure great privations and discomfort during the rains. It is quite evident now, after what has transpired at the interview of Mr. Flad with the Emperor, that there will be no release without coercive measures. Our friend is always ready to trump up grievances."

4. The letter alluded to by Mr. Rassam, as having been received from Mr. Flad, is as follows, and dated Debra Tabor, 3d May:—"I suppose you will already have heard of my arrival at this place. Allow me to give you, in a few lines, a short description of my interview with the King after I had been placed on Laa Amba, in Tehelja, for a few days; the King sent three officers to me as an escort to him. His camp was at that time at Arbia, in Dembra. Early on the 26th April I arrived in the camp; His Majesty was absent in Dagooda. At three in the afternoon he came back from that place; about four o'clock he sent for me. The reception was a very cold one. I handed over to him the Queen's letter, and afterwards delivered the others I had from Colonel Merewether, Dr. Beke, and the relations of Consul Cameron, Messrs. Stern, Rosenthal, and Kerans. In giving him the letter of Colonel Merewether, I informed His Majesty that that gentleman had sent him a good telescope (I told His Majesty

* It is not known whether this sentence is accurately deciphered.

“ you, Mr. Rassam, had written for it to England, and that it was expressly made for
 “ far distances), as a present sign of friendship. Immediately His Majesty asked me to
 “ send for the telescope, as he was very anxious to see it. In a hurry it was taken out
 “ of the box, and I was ordered to put it in order, and to show him the right point to
 “ suit his eyes. As I had not seen the telescope before, it took me some time to put in
 “ order, and I was unable to find out at once the right place by which His Majesty
 “ could see. The King got angry and tired of it, and sent the whole into his tent,
 “ saying, ‘ We will try it to-morrow, but I know it is not a good telescope; it is not
 “ ‘ sent to me for the good.’* After this, I was ordered to sit down again; all the
 “ bystanders were sent away, and I was questioned, ‘ Have you seen the Queen?’ to
 “ which I answered in the affirmative, saying that I had a very gracious reception from
 “ Her Majesty the Queen, who gave me a message to His Majesty by word of mouth.
 “ ‘ What is it, what is it,’ he asked, ‘ Her Majesty the Queen said?’ ‘ If you see the
 “ ‘ King, tell him from me that, if he does not at once send out of his country all those
 “ ‘ he has detained so long against their will, he has no right to expect any further
 “ ‘ friendship from me.’ This royal message he made me repeat from time to time.
 “ After a pause, he said, ‘ I asked from them a sign of friendship, which is refused to me.
 “ ‘ If they wish to come and fight, let them come; by the power of God I will meet
 “ ‘ them, and call me a woman if I do not treat them.’ He was then going on for a
 “ long time boasting, when I said that, if he had not sent Mr. Rassam, &c., to Magdala,
 “ the workmen and machinery would have been sent to his Royal Court at once, and
 “ that Her Majesty the Queen then had sincere intentions to form a friendly alliance
 “ between England and Abyssinia, and that still now Colonel Merewether was at Mas-
 “ sowah with the workmen, waiting for His Majesty’s orders at what place he would
 “ decide to exchange the prisoners for the workmen and the machinery. I also assured
 “ His Majesty that England at present had no intention of going to war with him,
 “ but desired to settle the affair amicably. But, if he should refuse to comply with
 “ Her Majesty’s request, England would be compelled to go to war with him; and not
 “ only this, but, as England hitherto protected Abyssinia against the Turks, ‘ I fear,’ I
 “ said, ‘ that, if England should go to war with Your Majesty, France will do the same,
 “ ‘ and Egypt will be only too glad to make the most of the opportunity for her. Up
 “ ‘ till now, England prevented Egypt from making war on Abyssinia, but, as soon as
 “ ‘ Your Majesty forces England to go to war, it could not prevent Egypt from doing
 “ ‘ the same, and so you will bring a war on yourself, not only with one, but with
 “ ‘ three powerful nations.’ On the 27th, I was called to give up the baggage I had
 “ brought. First, I separated the things I had bought for his own two thousand dollars.
 “ I wished to read and give to him the account, but he refused it. ‘ By my death,
 “ ‘ don’t tell me how you spent the money, and what you paid for the articles.’
 “ Secondly, I presented to His Majesty the presents sent by the relations of Captain
 “ Cameron, Mr. Stern, &c., through Dr. Beke, consisting of a flour mill, double-barrelled
 “ breech-loading gun, four revolvers in cases, files, a case of saws, and some carpenter’s
 “ tools. I was asked who it was who sent these things. I said, the relations of Captain
 “ Cameron, &c., as His Majesty would find in the letter I brought from them. After
 “ that, I had to separate your (Mr. Rassam’s), and the things of the Gaffat people, and
 “ my own. Everything was counted, and remained near the royal tent. The one thousand
 “ dollars† I had brought with me for you (Mr. R.) I had to count to one of his officers;
 “ after this I was sent to my own tent. Friday and Saturday I received nothing to eat
 “ and nothing to drink from him. On Sunday, Easter-day, he gave me 10 cows, but of
 “ these one only was sent, and killed for my servants. On Sunday evening the telescope
 “ was sent to me again. I put it all right, and went with one of his officers to him. The
 “ officer, who had tried it himself and found it excellent, told him that it was a good
 “ telescope, and he could see distinctly through it. ‘ Let me see it,’ he said; ‘ I can’t
 “ ‘ see anything; it is not sent to me for the good. It is the same story as it was some
 “ ‘ years ago, with that carpet sent me by Pasha Falaya (Mr. Speedy), through Kerans,
 “ ‘ but I chained the bearer of that carpet, by the power of God. This man who sends
 “ ‘ me the telescope wishes only to vex me. He wishes to tell me, “ Though you are a

* The objection to the telescope was a mere pretence. He wanted something to vent his anger upon, and selected this as the earliest. The glass is a most excellent one, and was sent to him as an earnest of what there was in store for him if he complied with Her Majesty’s demands. But he did not intend to release the captives, so showed rage.

† Four thousand dollars were given to Mr. Flad, to deliver to Mr. Rassam, but he very wisely left 3,000 with Mr. Cippierlie, at Kedaref. These are safe, though, from the stoppage of communication between Magdala and Kedaref, I am afraid they will be of no use to Mr. Rassam. Had Mr. Flad taken them on, they would have been appropriated also.

“ ‘ King, and I send you an excellent telescope, you can’t see anything through it.’ ” I did all I could to assure him that Colonel Merewether was not a man for such an act, and that time will show that it was a good telescope. I asked him to send it to his European workmen. At last he got so angry that I found it better to keep silent. On Monday morning he sent to me that I should prepare myself, as he wished to send me to my family at Debra Tabor. Before I took leave I said that I had still some more to tell him. He took me along with him into his tent. I informed him of the French proceedings with Menilek in Shoa*; of the friendly messages between Wagshum Gobezie and the Roman missionaries at Massowa; of the message Wagshum Gobezie sent to M. Munzinger to make him a friend with England†, but that the offer had been refused, telling Wagshum that only King Theodorus could be acknowledged, all others being rebels to him, and no communication could be held with them. I informed him that Egypt was just now building a new fort at Kufil, and that they had about 25 steamers in the Red Sea. I tried to convince him that it would be to his own and his country’s gain to yield to Her Majesty’s proposals, and by releasing and sending away the captives to make England his friend. To all this he replied,—‘ Don’t fear; the victory comes from the Lord. I trust in God, and He will help me, &c., &c.’ I was astonished that he listened to all I told so very coolly and indifferently. At last he said, ‘ I don’t fear. I don’t trust in my power; I trust in God, who says, if you have faith as a mustard grain you can remove mountains. You don’t know all. I know that if I had not chained Mr. Rassam the workmen would never have been sent to me. Not only at the time of Captain Cameron, when they gave no answer to my letter in which I had asked for friendship, I found out they were not my sincere friends, but I saw it even at the time of Plowden and Bell—those were my friends—and out of friendship to them I treated them well. I leave it to the Lord, and He shall decide between us when we are fighting in the battle field.’ He gave me an order for 500 dollars, of which I received 120, and said I should go to Debra Tabor, when he would come soon. Your (Mr. Rassam’s) articles he said Mr. Waldmair would know what to do with. I was to give them to him. Mr. Waldmair put them in the King’s treasury. The few things I had packed with my own I send you now. The 1,000 dollars, the King said, as the road was very unsafe to Magdala, he would keep, and send you an order for the amount to Magdala as soon as he returned to Debra Tabor; for that reason he wished Nona Mahomed (Mr. Rassam’s messenger) to wait here. Our present position here (Debra Tabor) is a very bad one. We are all anxious for the days, and what they will bring us, when His Majesty comes back from Dembea, which is now utterly ruined.”

5. Mr. Flad further writes to Mr. Rassam from Debra Tabor on the 16th May,—“ We are in pretty good health, but sickness is all round us. His Majesty has been here for one night. He was very kind to every one. Your letter and messengers have been received kindly by His Majesty. He ordered them to await here his arrival, as he wished on his return to send you your stores, and an order for the one thousand dollars. We hear that his camp is near the Bepp. When His Majesty was here, he inquired about the telescope. Mr. Waldmair said, that he and Mr. Sander had tried it, and found it to be a good and excellent telescope. It has been proved before the Ras that it is far better than all the telescopes the king possesses. About His Majesty’s intentions we know nothing. Mr. Sander is very ill. Messrs. Brandeis, Essler, and Schiller are also suffering from illness. His Majesty has not sent an answer to the Queen’s letter. He had only written a letter to me saying, ‘ If they give me a sign of friendship, bring it by the way of Metemma, and after I have seen it I will release Mr. Rassam and Consul Cameron, and send them to their country.’ I forwarded the letter to Colonel Merewether.”‡

Mr. Flad managed the interview exceedingly well. His firm manner and straightforward speaking would appear to have had good effect, for, though the King was evidently angry at the workpeople and presents not having accompanied Mr. Flad, he

* This refers to an application made by Menilek to the French Consul in Aden in 1865, for cannon and muskets to enable him to act against Theodorus. These, at my recommendation, the French Consul very properly refused.

† M. Munzinger informed me that Wagshum Gobezie sent a letter to him last November, but as he had learned from me that no communication with the rebels could be allowed as long as treating with Theodorus was going on, he simply sent a verbal message to Wagshum Gobezie saying that no letter could be received except through King Theodorus.

‡ Already transmitted.

had not directly resented it on that gentleman, as all at Debra Tabor and elsewhere in Abyssinia expected he would. How long this effect would last remains to be seen.

6. On the 3d June, Mr. Rassam writes,—

"You will be sorry to hear that we shall soon be hard up for money, because we find it impossible to obtain any from Metemma, in consequence of the general anarchy between this and Schelga. The 1,000 dollars brought by Flad he made over to the Emperor, and it is doubtful whether we shall ever receive them. Six messengers, whom I sent to Metemma a few days ago, for the purpose of bringing us money thence, have been seized by the rebels, within a day's journey of Debra Tabor, and we have not yet heard what has been their fate. Unfortunately they were travelling in company with royal messengers, and a cavalry officer who had decamped from the royal camp at Debra Tabor the evening before, met them the next morning and pounced upon them. Our messengers had six mules with them, but of course they were all plundered by the new rebel. I have now only 800 dollars left, and, as I have to support every European and all their servants, I fear we shall be in distress during the fast approaching rainy season, unless we receive relief before the middle of next month. It is reported that all the Europeans at Debra Tabor have been chained, not excepting Flad, and that even the ladies are now imprisoned. The disturbances on the road between us and them have so increased lately, that it is quite impossible for us to get any authentic news. I have tried no less than three times to communicate, but without success. The last communication I had from Flad was dated 16th ultimo."

7. Again, he writes on the 12th June,—

"On the 3d instant I wrote to you and informed you of our difficulty in money matters, in consequence of the total blocking up of the roads between this and Debra Tabor, and between the latter place and Metemma. Of the 4,000 dollars you kindly sent to Metemma, I have only received 100 through Flad. Besides those 4,000 dollars, I have 1,000 with the Gaffat people, which I fear will be as difficult to procure as the 1,000 which His Majesty received from Mr. Flad on my account. The country could never be in a worse state of anarchy. There is no district in Abyssinia now which has not revolted against the enemy of mankind, and His Majesty is sinking into insignificance daily, though his vicious propensities are on the increase. The rebels between this and Debra Tabor have so determined to stop all communication between the royal camp and his fortress, that they do not allow a soul to pass through, consequently we cannot obtain authentic information regarding the fate of the Gaffat Europeans and Mr. Flad; but the rumour of their all being in chains has not been contradicted. We have now no less than nine servants missing, but whether they are killed, or detained by the rebels of Begumder, it is difficult to know. The last we heard of them was that they had been stripped naked by the rebels, but, as it is rumoured that my head servant Oubie managed to save the letter I gave him for Mr. Cipperlie, to send me some money, I have great hopes that he has gone on hither with my other servants. However, it is quite problematical whether he will ever be able to return with any money, especially as we now hear that even Tehelga has rebelled against the power of Theodorus. His Majesty has now got so weak, that it would be quite impossible for him to put down the rebellion, and his troops have now so little faith in what he says, that whenever they have a good opportunity large companies desert. Yesterday a great Ras passed below this mountain on his way to his own country, with all the Yajoo part of the royal troops, who had abandoned their royal master, as hundreds of others are doing. It is also reported that all the soldiers of Jawoont and Jalanta (the only remaining districts in this vicinity who have kept faithful to the Emperor) have returned to their country without taking leave. I shall not be surprised if we yet leave Abyssinia without the aid of war from without; for I believe, if our friend fall, which fall must be quite sudden, the prelate will be of great help to us, and I am certain he will try his best to see us safe out of the country as soon as possible. We have had an epidemic on this mountain, something like typhus fever, but, happily, it has not reached our part of the fortress. It has played great havoc among the Native prisoners, of whom it has carried off a great number. Some great men have met their death, and one of the Chiefs who guards the prisoners has died of the malady. The last time I heard from Debra Tabor, I was told that a good deal of sickness pervaded the royal camp. As soon as I hear of important news from the camp, I will despatch a special messenger to Massowa with it. In the meantime I shall be looking with anxiety for what any day may bring forth after this."

8. From a letter of Dr. Blanc's, dated 19th May, I extract the following. After

stating that he had heard from Mr. Flad that the latter had sent messengers* to the coast with a full account of his meeting with the King, Dr. Blanc says,—

“Flad’s reception was cool enough, such as we expected. I believe that the firm tone used by Flad had a good effect, and made His Majesty reflect; at all events, he has not come to any conclusion as yet, though more than three weeks have elapsed. No one can form the slightest conjecture as to what course he will follow. The storm may burst upon us any minute, and no human sagacity can foretell what the future has in store for us. When we wrote, a fortnight ago, we were all much out of spirits; we expected great things, and instead, found, to our great disappointment, that the old system of letters and messengers was still going on. We knew how the one was useless, and feared, with reason, that the arrival of Flad would bring on a crisis. We were not wrong in both cases. The Europeans of Gaffat have already suffered; what is in reserve for us we are not as yet able to know, still, I believe, it is nothing good. Now that the matter is beyond remedy, we take a much more quiet view of the state of affairs, awaiting the smash with the greatest coolness, and bid him do his worst. The King is a rare fish. The misfortune of your telescope, and the way he received your present, were quite amusing. But no one must be deceived. He vented his rage on the telescope because he was obliged to abuse or criticise, and preferred doing so on a subject which might find credit in the eyes of his people. I am certain that, after the failure of the first day, he had made up his mind not to see through it; his answer, so full of meekness, is one also that would please his troops; they are superstitious and ignorant, and until the eleventh hour he will speak of battles and the God that gives the victory, all the time well determined not to try the venture. He has been recruiting his army on quite a new principle. As I said before, he could not carry even the few things Flad would bring, unless he went himself, or sent the greater part of his remaining troops. He did not trust to the latter course, so went himself, and, not to waste time, he plundered at the same time Degapa and Dembea so utterly that these two provinces are no better than the Sahara. This heroic deed accomplished, he told the peasantry, ‘You have now no home, no food, no cattle. I have not done it. God did it. Follow me, and I will take you where you will find plenty to eat, cattle in abundance, and punish those who have brought God’s anger on you.’ He issued the same proclamation to the peasantry of those portions of Begumder he had lately plundered. All these starving and homeless creatures were only too glad to accept, and have come in *en masse* to swell the unwarlike host of the former conqueror. With these he may march from place to place, carrying them with him, like a cloud of locusts, to destroy the very land, but will not venture in any of those parts of Abyssinia where any serious resistance may be offered. He is well aware that this new levy can only sack and plunder, and that to the few gun men left he must trust to resist the numerous armed rebels that surround him on all sides. Still he can do a great deal of mischief. The future of Abyssinia, deprived of such a large amount of its husbandmen, is pitiable enough, and it must soon again feel all the horrors of severe famine and its accompanying epidemics.”

9. With the above letters came a fragment, in cipher, giving the following important intelligence:—“King of Shoa wrote Bishop some days ago, saying, ‘If you like I will come and take Magdala.’ Bishop answered, ‘Come, by all means.’”

Not much faith was placed in this offer by the captives, but there may be something intended by Mehilek, as he has sent a messenger with a letter for me to Aden. There is no doubt he could do it if he liked, and I believe there are many inside the fortress who would gladly aid his entrance. Successfully carried out, it would undoubtedly be the death knell of Theodorus.

10. I annex copy *in extenso* of another letter from Dr. Blanc, containing information which I think will prove interesting to you, as elucidatory of the state of affairs up to the latest date. On the whole, the accounts, as far as regards those confined on Amba Magdala, may be considered far more satisfactory than the previous ones up to the 3d May. The King’s power is at the very lowest, the best of his troops have left him, and he has now merely a rabble of starving creatures, who will only remain with him as long as he can give them unopposed plunder. The communication between Magdala and Debra Tabor being completely closed shows the rebels must be there in force, and sufficiently so, it is to be hoped, to prevent the King falling back on the former, should he desire to do so. It is most probable, though, that he will cling to Debra Tabor, and his end come upon him suddenly there. Sudden it will be, if it does come. There is

* These have not arrived, and I fear must have been intercepted.

a prophecy that he will meet his death in the Abyssinian month commencing on 10th June and ending on 10th July. In previous years he has secluded himself during that month; this year he cannot, and the prophecy may prompt the deed which will rid the country of one who has "wearied" it by his late atrocities.

11. Such a result is, however, uncertain, and it is impossible to say what may happen. I therefore still earnestly hope that I may be at an early date favoured with your Lordship's instructions to proclaim to the King and all Abyssinia, should a suitable opportunity offer, that Her Majesty will exact some retribution from King Theodorus, should the lives of any British subjects in his country be lost through any acts of his; and that he will be held personally responsible with his throne and life in this matter. I trust that such instructions may be awaiting my return to Aden, for, used at the proper moment, such a measure would almost certainly be conclusive.

12. The position of the Europeans at Debra Tabor, consisting of Mr. Flad, the German lay missionaries, the hunters of His Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the two Frenchmen, Bardel and Mackerer, and the two poor ladies, Mrs. Flad and Rosenthal, with their children, is undoubtedly most critical, and we can only hope for the best for them.

13. Of the three messengers sent up separately on the 17th May, with Lord Stanley's letter to the King, two, who went by Hamozen and Tigré, were, I regret to say, seized by the rebel Chief Tishoo Gobezye, in Woggara. He took the letters from them with his own hand, but as yet I have no information what he did with them. The third messenger went *viâ* Lasta, and as nothing has been heard of him since, he has probably been more successful.

14. A thousand dollars go by these return messengers to Mr. Rassam. They are trustworthy people, and should reach early next month. More money will be sent a month hence, should it appear advisable so to do.

15. The heat here is very great, proving the utter impossibility of bringing troops at this season of the year. Even if they were only detained a few days in it, perfect prostration and disorganization would be risked.

16. Captain Fletcher, R.A., and Lieutenant Abbott, Assistant Resident, accompanied me on duty, to assist.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Resident.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, June 10th, 1867.

Nothing is more unsatisfactory than to write on vague rumours and untruthful reports; this time it cannot be helped, as we have but little correct information of what has latterly taken place. Since we wrote last no messenger, either private or Imperial, has reached this place. The Begemedar people have at last risen *en masse*; the unheard-of cruelty and the utter ruin brought upon them by their Sovereign, have at last roused the spirit of this enslaved race; it takes a long time to stir up the African blood, but, when once they shake off their fetters, it is difficult to bring them back to their former apathy. The impossibility at present to communicate from the camp to this Amba is, no doubt, the explanation of our present *statu quo*. The King may have decreed our deaths; even that we would know nothing about. No messenger can possibly bring any order good or bad, and, unless the King comes himself, at least as far as the Jeddah, there is but little chance of hearing either from him or from the Europeans. On the 27th last month, about a dozen of our servants were proceeding to Debra Tabor, some of them in order to bring here some of the kit Flad brought with him, others *en route* to Matemma, when they were suddenly pounced upon by a party of horsemen commanded by one of the King's officers, Zalulu, who had only a few hours before deserted with the troops under his command. All Begemedar men were armed and pretty well mounted. They had reached Gatinde, a district about five hours' march south-east of Debra Tabor, a short time before our servants; the peasantry, since a long time mutinous, hailed the arrival of their countrymen with joy, unburied their lances and swords, and declared themselves in open rebellion. As you may well expect, all was at the time excitement and turmoil; our servants evidently arrived at a very unlucky moment; generally, prisoners' servants are allowed to pass everywhere unmolested, but on this occasion they were seized and plundered of everything they had, those only who had old trousers were allowed to keep them. We lost on this occasion six mules and a good amount of other property. I came in for my share, as my servant was one of the number; my loss came to about 52 dollars, no trifle for people hard up as we now are. Some of the servants were left to the tender mercies of the peasants, who did not allow them either to proceed or return, through fear that they would reveal their whereabouts. Others, with the King's messenger, Lig Lee (a relation of Ras Kidous Mariam, the now imprisoned former Chief of this Amba), were taken away by Dejaz Mutch Jaleder to the low country between Clucheo and Zebiti. They started in the evening; soon after dark, whilst crossing a small stream, a certain confusion arose amongst the horses and mules. Lig Lee and two of our servants who were with him, took advantage of this to make their escape. Lig Lee managed to evade all pursuit, but our

servants were not so fortunate; they were overtaken and soundly flogged to make them confess the road Lee had taken. They could give no information, as they knew nothing themselves, having lost one another in the darkness. Some of the soldiers proposed killing them on the spot, others to let them go after another thrashing; this milder counsel fortunately prevailed; bruised, naked, half starved, they managed to reach the Amba, and gave us the tale of their adventures. Another servant belonging to Mr. Stern escaped soon after the plunder; he was the first to bring us the news. Though both our servants and Mr. Stern's agree as to the plunder and the principal events, they are at variance regarding the fate of the other servants. Mr. Stern's servant says that all are still in the houses of the peasants, the others that they have most probably been killed, as they met on the road two bodies of five or six of the servants of Acto Darger, brother of Labalu Lalassie, late King of Shoa, a prisoner on this Amba. I believe, however, this report to be unfounded, as if correct it would, no doubt, have been confirmed before this. The servants also disagree as to the fate of the Europeans. Mr. Stern's servant states that he heard that they had all been chained, and two days afterwards Flad and his wife had shared the same fate, and that all their property, as well as all that Flad had brought with him, had been confiscated. The others report, that on the King's return to Debra Tabor he called the Europeans before him, and told them not to be afraid, that he was their friend, and that they must take care of the guns, that the King had ordered a strong hedge to be built around their tents and huts, and that they were strictly watched prisoners without chains, as ourselves at Zagui. It is quite impossible to say which of the two accounts is the correct one, probably both; first the hedge, afterwards the chains, is a common practice of the King's. The newly levied army of peasants did not last long; as soon as they saw the King on his way back to Begemedar, expecting little profit, more likely hard blows, they melted away in the most wonderful manner. Desertion amongst the soldiers is on the increase. Zalulu, with his men, left the camp in the open day; many more would have followed, if the King himself had not arrived on the spot; he forbade all pursuit, being afraid that most likely many of the pursuers would join the runaways. He placed a line of musqueteers around his devoted soldiers, with orders to shoot any one who ventured beyond the camp limits. In the province of Begemedar there cannot be less than 20,000 men in open rebellion, partly peasants, the majority runaway soldiers, all anxious to rid themselves of the tyrant who destroys their homes. Luckily for the King, they are not acting together; all the petty Chiefs are jealous of one another; it requires a brave and clever man, of good family, to unite all these small independent rebels with a strong united force; should this take place, the King would be done for. I know enough of the natural jealousy of the natives to feel assured that this will not take place as yet, at least. The King, with his small band of ruffians, will be allowed to go on plundering, torturing, and burning, wholesale fashion, not so much through his own strength, as through the want of union amongst the rebels. The last we heard of the King himself is, that he has been plundering several of the districts in the neighbourhood of Debra Tabor, Omora Gadee, and Omuz Wauz.

On the 19th of last month, everybody at Debra Tabor was surprised by the sudden and unexpected return of the King. It appears that he had heard that the rebels had assembled in large numbers at Omora Gudee, about five hours' march from Debra Tabor. The rebels, believing that the King was still in Dembea, had intended to make a sudden attack on Ras Taja and release the prisoners, the majority of them being Begemedar men. The King came on them so unexpectedly that the rebels at first believed that Ras Taja had come to attack them, but the great number of silver shields and ornamented saddles made them suspect the King himself; all their courage vanished; the Chiefs gave the example of the *saave qui peut*; being better mounted than their followers they managed to escape; the peasants threw down their arms and begged for pardon—need I say how useless their appeal for mercy, and that to a man they were all slaughtered on the spot. At Omuz Wauz, however, it is said he met with a semi-defeat; his plundering parties were very roughly handled by the peasantry. The King managed to seize some of these brave men, and to prove to them his ardent love, had them burnt alive. Little reliance can, however, be placed on any of these reports. Abyssinians are famous for their power of invention, and, according to your friendship or enmity to the powers that be, come with the most contradictory tales. Still these facts are pretty certain: the King is losing ground daily; he is worse and worse, and more cruel as he feels more disappointed; thirdly, he can still hang on a long time, unless the peasants and runaway soldiers unite under a common leader. All Abyssinians are superstitious; all believe in the horoscope, astrologers, &c. A popular belief exists, in which the King himself shares, that his death is to happen in the month of Saunù and at no other time. Saunù begins on the 6th June and ends on the 6th July; during that period the King seldom ventures abroad, never engages in any war or plundering expedition. Well, a few days ago, on his return from a good lift of cattle, he heard at night a proclamation being made at a short distance. Peasants follow the soldiers who have plundered them and present themselves before the King, and sometimes succeed in getting back part of their property; it is true that they often get the stick for their trouble, but Abyssinians will run great risks where their property is concerned. The King inquired, and was told that a man was addressing the peasants who had followed their stolen cattle. "What does he say?" asked the King. He says, "That the month of Saunù being near, his countrymen must not fear, as in that month your Majesty will die, and they will get back their property." The King called some of his officers and told them, "As far as I am concerned, I must submit to what destiny keeps in reserve for me, and the fellow's prophecy concerning myself can still turn out to be correct; but, to prove to him that he is only an impostor, have all the cows and mules killed immediately. Should I die, at all events he will still be wrong and not get back the cows." 10,000 cows and mules were shot at once to the utter mortification and disappointment of the prophet, the peasantry, and the soldiers. Here on our Amba we are pretty quiet. We have had our house repaired for the rainy season, and have made a small garden in front. We endeavour to banish as much as we possibly can all idea of prison and uncertain future. Sickness is considerable on the mountain. Cholera seems to have broken out in the common jail last month, together with a kind of typhoid fever. I have not heard of any cases of cholera lately, but many deaths take place daily from the other disease; one of the Council died from it a few days ago. Samuel had a bad fever the other day, but is now all right again. None of us are very sick; none quite well. Rassam has been suffering from headache and diarrhoea; Prideaux

from a slight bilious attack, Stern and Rosenthal are pretty well; Cameron more or less unwell; myself, bronchitis and neuralgia. Evidently, the season is not a healthy one; it is due, I believe, to the great heat of the sun compared to the temperature of the houses, a difference of nearly 40 degrees. The vaccine matter you kindly sent up at last succeeded, and for the last three weeks no end of little niggers have enjoyed the privilege of preservation. It is quite astonishing how soon the people accepted it. No end bring their children; the only difficulty is to obtain the lymph from the previously vaccinated children, they have an idea that opening the pustule will cause the death of the child. As none, luckily, have died, it is to be hoped that the prejudice will before long disappear. The Gallas are the great terror of the Ambara garrison of this Amba; they are consequently very fond, when they have a chance, to delude themselves and make others believe in their courage and desire to fight them. A few days ago a hundred or so made their appearance at once; one of the Chiefs with several hundred musqueteers made a sortie and returned in triumph, having gone in the opposite direction to where the Gallas have been seen. It is rumoured that the two rival Queens will shortly come to blows. Workiti is still in Shoa, and is supposed to be backed by the ruler of that kingdom, whilst Waitiak (the Looking-glass) is the favourite of the Galla Chiefs, and is supposed to be at the head of 20,000 warriors. A short time ago she made her appearance in the neighbourhood, but seems to have gone in the direction of Godjam. Our servants are evidently frightened. Not one will go to Gaffat. One named Worku agreed to go a few days ago, but ran away it is said to Tigré, taking our letters with him. The news that the Europeans have been chained hands and feet, that all their servants have either run away or are in chains, and the state of the road, has quite damped their courage. To-day, a messenger from this mountain, sent by the Chiefs, is going to try his luck, and until now we have not been able to find a servant to accompany him. It is a pity that every messenger did not bring with him a good revolver with ammunition. With a dozen of them we might have long ago made our escape, but without arms it is not possible. There is nothing to be gained by lamentations, no good crying over spilt milk, so the less said the better. The Irishman drags the tail of his coat and requests any gentleman to be kind enough to tread upon it, but the British lion lets him be trampled upon with the greatest meekness; let us hope that he will soon awake from his lethargic slumber, and give a few healthy roars in this country. I have written, I am afraid, a rather absurd letter, but it is not so much my fault as the difficulty to obtain anything like correct information. However, here is a summary of our position: a telegram you can send to the "Times,"—"Europeans probably chained hands and feet, deprived of their servants. All communication stopped, no possibility of obtaining anything from either Gaffat or Metemma. Epidemic on the mountain, rainy season close at hand, hardly any money, supplies very scarce and dear, and every minute in expectation of something bad from our friend the King." We expect every day to hear that Daboreta has rebelled; the Gallas come no more to bring supplies. Should Daboreta go over to the rebels, Dalanta would shortly follow; then, indeed, it will be hard to get even the most common supplies of the country; add to this, that our friend the King may come here shortly to add to our comfort. What can we do? Like Cassandra, our warnings have been laughed at; all that is left to us is to hope and trust for the best.

Believe me always, with respect,

Very sincerely yours,

H. BLANC.

Samuel begs to send you his respectful compliments; he has just told me that he heard that Waldemir, Gandar, and Moritz Hall were not chained, all the rest hands and feet.

Yesterday afternoon, some of the servants staying in Dalanta to look after some mules came with a brother of the Chief to inform us that all the Yagoo troops under Ras Adilon had left the camp, and had passed through Dalanta *en route* to their native country; that the soldiers from Dalanta, Nadelo, and Dahonte had also abandoned the King and returned to their respective provinces. Apart from the musqueteers, few men remain near the King. The Yagoo formed his best cavalry, and were considered always as his bravest and most faithful troops. Before long, Yagoo, Dalanta, and Dahonte will place themselves under the protection (nominal) of the Wakshum. The cause of the great desertion is due to the cruelty latterly practised by the King. Some five or six days ago, he executed about 100 of his Chiefs on mere trivial pretexts. After the audience, Ras Adilon consulted his Chiefs; they decided to leave the King in the open day, then and there, and fight if attacked. They departed unmolested. The King is falling so rapidly, that there is much fear that he will come here before the rainy season sets in. A conspiracy is said to have been discovered on this Amba. One of the seven Chiefs, by name Hailo, made arrangement to open the gates to the Gallas; it may be true, or simply an invention of some "friend" of his. Tschelga has gone over to the rebels. No hope, if any before, of anything coming *via* Metemma.

No. 16.

The Political Resident at Aden to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received August 6.)

My Lord,

Aden, July 20, 1867.

I have the honour to report that I left Massowah on the 12th instant. On the way down Kaheita was visited, to see if it would be a suitable place for landing troops, should such be required. It is on the African Coast about 16 miles west 16° north from Perim—a perfectly open roadstead, with the village some three miles inland. Very often during the cold season there is a very heavy swell in this part of the Red Sea, making landing most difficult. The place is, therefore, useless.

2. Passing out of the Red Sea, course was made for Tajoora; keeping close to the coast a good view was obtained of Obokh. Nothing appeared to have changed from what was seen when I visited it in May 1866. The French evidently have no intention of utilising their purchase, at present at all events.

3. At Tajoora I was visited by the Sultan of the place, of the Dunkelli Tribe, and questioned him as to the state of the country. He informed me that another part of the Dunkelli Tribe—the most powerful portion—living at and around Aussa, had taken offence, and, coming down last year in great force, had captured and burnt Tajoora. The greater number of the inhabitants had fled to Zeylah on the opposite side of the gulf; only about 100 men remained with him, and they were day and night in fear of attack by the Aussa branch again. They kept boats ready to carry them all off, in case of the enemy appearing. He described the interior as in great disorder, the Somalies plundering on the Abyssinian road from the south side, while the Dunkellis and other tribes made it unsafe by their attacks from the north. The heat at Tajoora was very great—as bad, if not worse, at night than by day. It is surrounded on all sides but one by volcanic hills, tumbled about in the most confused manner, which, baked by the sun in the day, give out intense heat at night. Though we were two miles out at sea, the wind came off the shore as from a glowing furnace. Tajoora was left about midnight of the 14th, and Aden reached by the evening of the 15th.

4. During my absence a messenger had arrived from the King of Shoa, Menelek, who escaped from confinement in the Magdala prison two years ago, and has since established himself in Shoa independent of the Abyssinian Emperor. The messenger brought two letters; one he said was for me, the other he did not know for whom, but believed for England. I opened them both, had them translated, and forward the translations herewith. The second proved to be for Her Majesty the Queen, and I enclose the original in Amharic. I regret to say it got much soiled in transit, from being over-carefully preserved by the carrier.

5. Of the presents alluded to only a portion have come safely. The messenger, who was accompanied from Aukolur by the son of Aboo Bekr, Chief of Zeylah, was attacked by a large body of Eisah Somalies when about four days' journey from Zeylah. The articles which have arrived have been packed and will be forwarded to your Lordship by this mail, *via* Southampton. They consist of a silver-mounted sword, a silver-mounted shield, a dress worn by an Abyssinian lady, a piece of cloth of Abyssinian manufacture, three skins mounted to wear as kind of over-coats.

6. The messenger will remain here until an answer or instructions are received from your Lordship. He expressed himself willing to proceed to England, but I informed him that was quite unnecessary.

7. It is supposed that on the death of Theodorus, Menelek will aspire to be Emperor of Abyssinia. But though he is perhaps the most powerful of all the opponents to the present Emperor, it is not at all certain that he has sufficient influence or capacity to establish himself master. From all accounts that I have been able to collect, his arrangements since he managed to return to his own country have been good, and it is almost the only part of Abyssinia that may be said to be in any state of order or in which any good form of government exists.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

Sultan NIGOOS MENELEK to Lieutenant-Colonel MEREWETHER.

(Translation.)

Sent by Sultan Negoos Menelek. May it arrive at the ruler of Aden!

We salute you. We are well. After having been eleven years absent from our country, we returned, and took our father's place. When this happened I was much pleased and rejoiced; you also rejoiced on our account.

We have sent our servant; he has some work; when it is finished please send him back without fail. For God's sake do what he desires. His name is Mekeb. We have sent with him presents for you, a horse and a mule.

NIGOOSA NEGESH MENELEK.

Enclosure 2 is No. 16.

Sultan NEGOOS MENELEK to QUEEN VICTORIA.

(Translation.)

In the name of the Trinity.

From Negoos Menelek to Queen Victoria, many salutations. I thank God greatly that I am well. After having been absent from my country for eleven years, I became possessor of my father's place. Since I returned to my country I and all my relations are well, thanks be to God. And I ask you how you are, and your relations and countrymen. I send this letter to you for friendship's sake, in like manner as there was friendship between you and my grandfather Sahela Selassie. I hope your people will come to me in like manner as they came to my grandfather; but I heard afterwards that your people did not leave this country bearing love. At that time I was a child—I don't know, but I heard so, and hearing so I got very angry; and the reason of your people leaving in anger was, that my grandfather heard long before, that a people coming from a long distance would come and take his country, Shoa. But how can this be the case when you sent in friendship guns and muskets?

The councillors of my father advised him to keep you away from our country, and your people left the country in anger; if my grandfather had not behaved so badly towards your people, our country would not have passed from our hands; if you had been our friend, our country had not become bad; your flag was in our country. I hope my country will not again be lost. My country is your country, and your country is my country. Become my friends, and do not think that I will behave like my grandfather, and forget all my grandfather's acts, and make me like your son for God's sake—for God's sake. Two bangries (silver), one necklace, one jambia (silver), one frontlet (silver), one shield (silver mountings), two spears, one bangrie, one skin (lion) called gissilla, one skin leopard, one tobe, a shirt, and a tobe. I have told you I am well; you also tell me how you are. Send my people quickly, in the month of Miskerram.

The things I have sent are as a remembrance that you may know that my father's country has come into my hands.

No. 17.

The Political Resident at Aden to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

(Received August 13th.)

My Lord,

Aden, July 26, 1867.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that further letters have been received from Magdala, brought by native boat from Massowah, but only of one week's later date than those transmitted by last mail. The news now received is up to the 19th June, and is much of the same tenour as the last. The captives were all well, but owing to the money forwarded by Mr. Flad unfortunately not having reached them, they were getting into great difficulties from want of it; 1,000 dollars were sent up on the 12th instant, and 600 will be despatched by these return messengers. The communication with the King's camp was still completely closed.

2. Mr. Rassam writes that "since the last note I received from Mr. Flad, dated the 16th ultimo (May), no communication has been received by me or anyone else from Debra Tabor. I have tried no less than eight times to communicate, but my messengers were either seized or frightened back by the rebels of Begemeder. I have, however, tried again through the assistance of the Bishop, and I hope that this time my messenger will succeed in reaching Debra Tabor and communicating with Mr. Flad. As no messenger has reached this place for the last thirty days, of course all reports we hear cannot be depended upon, and we are obliged to receive all intelligence with caution.

"There is one thing certain, however, that the rebellion has now become quite general, which is proved by the fact that the communication has been lately stopped between the Royal camp and this garrison. It is rumoured that the Emperor has killed all the prisoners; but whether the Europeans have also forfeited their lives or not, it is more than I can say. I might write to you two or three sheets full of different rumours, but it would be only wasting time, and might deceive you and Government; so I hope you will be cautious as to what you hear from Abyssinia. I shall try my best to get out with my party; but whether I shall succeed to do so without assistance from without it remains to be seen. I fear not. There is no Chief in the Royal camp now of any importance; they have either decamped or got imprisoned. The Bishop and Samuel are of great service to me, and indeed there is no Chief near me who would not do his best to see us safely out of the country if he could only have a little pluck. I only wish I had money to enable me to be more hospitable. It is quite impossible for His Majesty to send us our things now. If he is obliged to take refuge in this mountain, he will have scarcely people enough to carry his own things hither. Rumour says that he is quite besieged at Debra Tabor, and will not be able to pass through the rebels if he wants to come here. My opinion is, that he can any day come through the enemies' country with a handful of followers, as I believe his very figure frightens thousands of rebels. Why, he has now rebels around him consisting mostly of his own runaway soldiers, who

more than double his own followers, and yet they are afraid to attack him, though every day he imprisons and kills their relations."

3. Dr. Blanc, in a letter (copy of which is appended), gives a fuller account of the state of affairs; also of the chances respecting themselves. As regards the prospects of release in the event of King Theodorus's death, I consider them more favourable than Dr. Blanc does, for I believe that any of the minor rebels would be glad to give their help for the reward they feel sure they would obtain, and the more powerful Chiefs would hope to gain future advantages by showing their desire to be on different terms with the British Government to those King Theodorus has maintained, and they would consider the best means of effecting that would be the liberation and safe-conduct of the captives to the coast. Believing that such result might be brought about in the event of the King's death, I would again beg most strongly to urge the desirability of a firm and unmistakeable tone being adopted towards King Theodorus; that the course I have so frequently recommended may be adopted, viz., a distinct announcement from Her Majesty's Government that friendly relations would no longer be continued with a Sovereign who had shown such faithlessness, and acted in a manner so contrary to the recognized laws existing among civilized nations, and that he would be held responsible for the safety of those he so unjustifiably held in confinement. Until this announcement is made, I am precluded from communicating in any way with the powerful Chiefs who are entirely opposed to the King, and whose good offices might now be of inestimable value. The King may be killed by this time, or he may hold on for months; whichever proves to be the case, I would most earnestly plead that a decided course be at once proclaimed, so that all Abyssinia may know Her Majesty's Government had hitherto acted only with a desire of maintaining friendly relations with the Sovereign of Abyssinia, that the very great forbearance which had been shown arose from the supposition that the King's actions were owing to a misunderstanding, not to an intentional insult; but, now that it was clear that the latter was designedly offered, full retribution would be promptly executed.

Dr. Blanc's present letter, as well as all previous correspondence, will have shown that in Abyssinia the opinion has become very general that England is its inferior in power, and cannot resent insult. I regret to say that that opinion is not confined to Abyssinia; and though not so openly expressed, there is undoubtedly amongst the people in the neighbourhood here, a feeling of surprise at the long-continued endurance of the British Government, a feeling which has been repeatedly expressed. The only fear I have is, that the decision of Her Majesty's Government may be too late; that before it is announced, the King may be removed from the scene, and the effect be in a measure lost. It is this that makes me so urgent.

4. No letter has been received from Mr. Flad. The bearer of the third copy of your Lordship's letter to the King reached Debra Tabor safely on the 13th of June. He remained 11 days before he was dismissed, and then returned, in 22 days, to Massowah without any answer. He delivered the despatch into the King's own hand. The King took it, and saluted it by conveying it to his head: a few words were addressed to the messenger. He was then told to retire, with an order that he was to receive two dollars at once, and daily two sheep and five breads. After 10 days he was dismissed, at the same time with several other messengers from Tigré. No letter was delivered to him, and when he purposed asking the King about it, he was prevented doing so by the bystanders. This is the man's own statement. It is evident the King has no intention of sending any reply, or of acting in accordance with the demand contained in your Lordship's letter. Such being the case, and there being the chance of the King succeeding in maintaining himself in power till October (when the season for operations commences), I would also earnestly urge the advisability of immediate measures being adopted to prepare a force to be despatched from India, for the purpose of punishing him and releasing the captives.

5. I have received a Government telegram *via* Egypt, from Bombay, desiring my immediate presence there. I should have left accordingly by the steamer which will pass this about the 1st proximo, but I think it most desirable that I should take down with me M. Munzinger's report of his journey from Amphilla, which has not yet been furnished, as also that another fortnight's intelligence from Magdala may be received. I have therefore decided on sending up Her Majesty's ship "Dalhousie" to Massowah first, and on her return proceed in her to Bombay, arriving there about the 14th proximo.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER.

Enclosure in No. 17.

Dr. BLANC to Lieutenant-Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, June 18, 1867.

Communications between this amba and the King's camp are still suspended; no servants will venture on the road; no reward will induce them to risk falling into the hands of the numerous rebels who infest the road, or, should they be fortunate enough to escape that danger, to penetrate into the tiger's den, where life is held so cheap. However, a priest who arrived here a few days ago, having accompanied Ras Adilon in his flight, states that 650 Wadela men were executed on the day previous to the desertion of the Yadja people. A follower of the King accused them before His Majesty of intending to run away. The Wadela Chiefs denied the charge; the accuser brought nine witnesses. The case heard, the Wadela people were all conducted into an inclosure prepared beforehand; logs of wood were tied round their necks; their arms and legs bound with leather thongs; helpless and innocent they fell easy victims to the executioner's sword. One of the Chiefs, whilst awaiting his turn, shouted at the top of his voice, so that the King, who was at no great distance, might hear himself the dying words of his former staunch follower: "Oh, King, you murder me in cold blood; is that the reward of my long and faithful services? I am going to die, but, before long, will meet you before a just judge, where I and my innocent companions will become your accusers. Believe a dying man; you will not survive us more than a few days."

It appears that these words made a temporary impression on the superstitious and cowardly mind of the despot. He has since then, it is rumoured, turned up a new leaf, is constantly in prayers, calls himself the "slave of Christ," and will probably build a church to obtain absolution from the priests, and wash off, if possible, from his conscience, the innocent blood in which he daily carouses.

The wife and child of Zalalu fared even worse than the Wadela people. This poor woman and her child were wrapped up in wax clothes and burned like candles. Their cries were heard for many miles around, and increased, if possible, the hatred and desire of vengeance of the already exasperated peasantry.

In the history of the world there is no parallel case. It is true tyrants and despots have wantonly spilt human blood, great conquerors have overrun large tracts of country: out of 3,000,000 inhabitants he has destroyed more than a third by war, famine, and murder. Nero, Attila, Tamerlane, were lambs when compared to Theodorus. No man was ever so false, so treacherous—no man held friendly or family ties so cheap. His own son, Ras Meshisha, is in chains. Ras Taga, whom he left in charge of his camp during his late expedition, was chained; a reward for his fidelity on the return of his ungrateful master. We are not therefore astonished when we daily hear of fresh desertions. Basha Koulitch, commanding, it is said, a thousand gunmen, deserted with the greater part of his men; Ras Engeddah, the favourite, has, it is reported, abandoned his master, and will raise the Agans; Lij Abitou, also a favourite, son of the Chief of Belissa, has followed the same example, and with his father has raised the standard of rebellion in that already disaffected province. The Agan and Damat troops have gone over to Godjam. It is difficult to make out the number of men that will remain near him; they cannot be many—of spearmen hardly any, of gunmen about 1,000; but how long will even these few remain it is impossible to say. We hear but of murders, either in the King's camp or in the rebel ranks; blood is poured daily on both sides in such excess that, with the impending famine and consequent epidemics, the fate of this unfortunate people is fearful indeed to contemplate. The want of unison amongst the rebels is as great as ever; the Godjam people were plundered of even their clothes by the Begemeder peasantry; and if Basha Koulitch had not shown a brave front, he and his gunmen would have shared the same fate. Since some time it was expected that the province of Dahoute would on the first opportunity throw off its allegiance to the King: when Ras Adilon left, numbers of the Dahoute and Dalanta soldiers accompanied him; as soon as they reached their respective provinces, they called upon the peasantry to arm, defend their homes, and have nothing more to do with the murderer of their relatives. The appeal was responded to on all sides; the Chiefs formerly appointed by the King were seized, chained, and their property divided amongst the rebels. In Dahoute 1,000 cows belonging to the King, 150 horses and mules, the property of soldiers of this mountain, as well as large flocks of sheep and stores of grain, have been confiscated by the rebels; they sent word to the Chiefs of this amba informing them of what they had done, and bidding them defiance: "Come and take your property, if you dare," was the conclusion of their message.

It is said that the Dahoute people are destroying the passes up the Jeddah, and have called upon the Gallas Queen to protect them. Dalanta has also declared its independence. A message was also sent to this amba to inform the Chiefs of the decision. They were told, If you have money come and buy, we will not molest you. However, the Chiefs here are not so confident; so they answered, Come and sell. They would be afraid, even should the Dalanta people keep to their word, that the soldiers would avail themselves of the opportunity to return no more. One of my servants was in Dahoute on the first rising of the peasantry; he was seized and plundered of some sheep he was bringing, and of some money he had with him. They fortunately allowed him to return hither. Some of the King's messengers were also seized at the same time, and sent back naked, minus mules, arms, &c. I also lost on the same occasion 10 dollars' worth of honey that the former Chief had purchased for me and kept in the house until I should send mules.

Concerning the Europeans at Debra Tabor we know very little. None of our servants have returned, nor do I believe ever will. The Chiefs of this mountain are quite at their wits' end to know how to communicate with their master. They speak of sending a beggar, and of secreting a letter in his trousers. I do not think that they will succeed; the peasants are up to all their tricks, and to avoid being imposed upon, murder every one, man, woman, or child, who attempts to cross their country. It is said that some time ago the King called Makerer before him, and asked him why he had attempted to run away after he had of his own free will applied to be admitted into his service? Makerer tried by soft answers to turn away the King's wrath; he succeeded so far that the King, who had already cocked his pistol to shoot him, put it aside and told him to "go away, another day I will kill you."

Should he carry his threat and wish into execution, the fate of all the Europeans in this country would be sealed; he has done every kind of injury to the white men except spilling their blood; but the day he throws away all restraint, and gives full licence to his passions, he knows then that he is done for—that blood calls for blood, and that he has not even pity to expect; he will, therefore, before seeking for safety in flight, murder every white man in his power. It is also said that Bardel is chained with the five he betrayed. The King saw him one day coming out of Flad's tent. He called him and said, "You go to Flad to tell him my secrets, you sell me theirs, you want to make mischief—chain him."

From all accounts I do not believe that any of the Gallat people are in chains, only prisoners. Mr. Rosenthal is very anxious about his wife. A few days ago a plan struck him which might be used should anything sudden happen to the King. It was to communicate through the Bishop with the priests of a church near Debra Tabor held in great sanctity by the natives. The priests were to be offered a good reward should they in time of danger be willing and able to carry off Mrs. R. to their sanctuary. The Bishop answered; "You must know very little of the customs of this country, and less of our friend in particular, if you believe that he will either run away or be killed before he has previously made a large wilderness around him, and first murdered all prisoners, white men included."

A few months ago, the King still had a few provinces left—small remains of his former conquests, still he had something; now he cannot even call himself Monarch of all he surveys when he gazes on the surrounding plain from the summit of Debra Tabor. The camp and Magdala constitute his kingdom—ruffians and executioners his army. The small power he still retains he owes to the terror of his name and to the cowardice, weakness, and jealousy of his enemies. What will he now probably do? Is he so far gone that we need not fear him?—Would his fall insure our deliverance?—are questions of such importance to us that you will no doubt excuse me for troubling you a little with them. What he will do can only be surmised. According to the general belief of the natives, friends and foes, only two courses are open to him:—one to strengthen his position at Debra Tabor, erect a strong palisade around his camp, and spend there the rainy season at least; he has plenty of food, more than for a year; the peasants will at last get tired of being continually in arms, many will return to their villages, and the King, taking advantage of any want of vigilance on their part, will pounce upon them, kill, burn, and plunder. He has no fear of being attacked. Abyssinians do not like palisades, especially when a Theodorus is behind.

Secondly. He can come here; but, unless weaker than we believe, he will not give up his present position in the open field, however bad it is, for the desperate one of shutting himself up. He cannot bring here the grain he has since several months accumulated at Debra Tabor. Here the supply on hand will not last more than four or five months for the garrison alone, and Magdala, it must be remembered, is now in the centre of the rebel country. He would also have to bury or destroy his guns, to kill all the prisoners, and finally to fight his way through the rebels and peasants in arms, who occupy all his country between his camp and Magdala. As far as he is personally concerned he would probably not see a rebel. His name alone is worth 10,000 men, but they would attack his army, already so reduced, on all sides. Many would run away, so that should he even reach Magdala, he would only have a few hundred men left. He is always in time to resort to such extremities; for the present he will most probably fortify himself, and wait where he is. Some day, when he finds himself abandoned by all but the few outlaws and ruffians that will by necessity always remain with him, he will, with their help, murder prisoners and others, mount his horse, and quietly canter to this amba. At any time he can come here, unless the mountain is invested by a strong force. The Abyssinians are such cowards that, mounted on a doukey, with not even a stick in his hand, he would frighten away the whole rebel host of Begemeder, Dahoute, and Dalanta; the bravest could not stand the mere mention that Theodorus is coming. But if he can always come, even as a fugitive, will the Chiefs and soldiers of this mountain remain faithful to him and keep their trust? I have not the slightest hesitation in saying, Yes—as far, at least, as the Chiefs are concerned, and they will take care to humbug the soldiers. They will some of them run away (a few have already done so), especially if food becomes scarce; but there will always remain enough to keep both amba and prisoners in safe custody. All the Chiefs—Ras, Ritwaddads, Dejajmatche, &c., with the exception of Hailo, who is of good family (and lately, as I told you, suspected of intriguing with the Gallas, false accusation prompted by jealousy), are a low set of bragging fellows, formerly servants or peasants, all men of the King's making, without any standing or stake in the country. With the King's fall they lose all, even the empty title he has conferred on them. They have no private means; all are well known as the King's worst creatures, and would stand but a poor chance at the hands of either rebels or peasants.

All Abyssinia has abandoned the King, the whole land now curses and abhors him, his best and oldest friends positively loathe his presence, and fly to distant provinces to save their lives. But at Magdala he is still the God they adore, the being they worship, by whom they live, with whom they will die. They still speak of bright days to come, of fresh victories, of new laurels to be gathered. Only wait a little, said one of them the other day; the Lion will again come forth and crush his enemies. The King is not a fool; he well knew what he was about when he confided the guardianship of his treasure, his wives, his bishop, his great prisoners, to the Magdala Chiefs; he may remain away for months, he may leave the garrison to starve or fight for mere existence: still, unless mighty events do not take place, he will always be able before he becomes an outcast to visit a last time his faithful Magdala, and mix with the blood of the murdered Gallas, that of all the great men of Abyssinia, and that of his English guests of that race he so intensely hates. To the second query, therefore, one can boldly reply, We may hope for the best, but fear the worst.

The most important question of all is, would his fall insure our deliverance? No! Let us admit for an instant that the King is dead: that this mountain has after all proved unfaithful or been compelled to surrender; that the King, though still alive, has run away to Konara or the Shankalla country; in a word, that the King is out of the way, a mere thing of the past: even then our position would be quite as critical,—more so, if possible, than it actually is.

All Abyssinians are bad, all cruel, all treacherous; all they require is the opportunity. Every one has in him the qualities of a Theodorus; give one power, he will as a rule soon show himself in his

true colours. The first thing he will do will be to cut off the hands and feet of even his best friend if he believes that at any time he may prove "dangerous." They follow to a nicety in that respect the maxim that "prevention is better than cure." It is natural that an Abyssinian prefers shortening his friend's extremities to undergoing that process himself. Every one seeks to be the best man, and will often struggle hard to obtain the supremacy. Should the King be no more, every petty Chief will be in arms; hundreds of pretenders will be on all sides, and until one is strong enough to make himself respected and impose his will on others there will be no safety for life or property. Abyssinia will be deluged with blood, and anarchy reign supreme over the whole land. Before Abyssinia again accepts a ruler it would necessarily take some time; during that period what would become of the Europeans in this country? All those in Debra Tabor, if spared by the King, would be murdered by the peasantry; their chance is poor indeed. If the mountain remained in the hands of the present Chiefs, the prospect of reward, not to call it ransom, might induce them to treat us well; but should the master disappear there is very little likelihood that the soldiers would sustain a siege, no doubt before long the amba would pass into other hands. Let us admit the best, and suppose that Menilek or Wakshum are the conquerors; what assurance have we that they will allow us to leave the country, even that we would not be worse treated than we are now? None at all! Since many years Abyssinians have been accustomed to see Europeans bullied and in chains: nothing bad came from it; on the contrary, presents ("tribute" as it is here called) have repeatedly been sent from England. Why should not another man do the very thing that succeeded so well with the King?

The Bishop would interfere, would be of great use? Alas! vain thought! Where is his influence? Has he not also been a prisoner for some years; he is as helpless as ourselves? What have Menilek, Wakshum, Gobezi, or others done for him? Did they ever make the slightest effort in his favour? Is not now the time most propitious—the King weak, country all in rebellion? What do they do? They humbug him and nothing else. Trust not in bishops! If a big man gets hold of us and he is not of the worst kind, he will perhaps treat us well; but under some excuse, friendship perhaps, keep near him the valuable strangers his predecessor prized so high. If we fall into the hands of the Gallas or of some small chieftain it is hard to say what might happen; or even what the soldiers of this amba may do when once the fear of the King is lost. Speculating on the future would only be ridiculous: only one thing appears pretty certain, that, King or no King, without help from home there is no getting out. What I fear the most is that some of those men who, without reasoning, jump at conclusions, will come forward and say: "The King is going down; before long he will be out of the way, and then the captives will get out." Error!!! The King is alive and kicking, and there is no saying how long he may yet last; he is falling, but not fallen. We are in the midst of an ignorant people, hundreds of miles from the nearest seaport: it would be folly to leave us to our own resources. It is certainly very gratifying for us to see the treacherous host who so unjustly keeps us in chains falling; it would be more so to hear he is no more, and that whatever we may have to fear, we are no more in the power of the most bloodthirsty man the world ever produced. But even should this fortunate event take place, let no one be deceived—we would be as far as ever from deliverance and liberty. Then, as well as now, nothing but an army can release the captives. A few thousand men would do it. Europeans have lost caste in this country, and unless convinced by evidence the prestige of the white man is gone for ever. An interesting campaign! A fine country annexed to the British Crown! Innocent men released from their fetters! Are these not enough to stimulate to action? Why wait? Why have waited so long?

I hope you will be able to read my letter; the ink is most abominable, I regret to say of my own making—not very creditable, as you see, to my scientific attainments.

Believe me, &c.,

H. BLANC, M.D.

No. 18.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 6th, 1867.

The Sultan and the Pasha should be requested to instruct all the functionaries at the Turkish and Egyptian ports to facilitate the active purchase of animals.

No. 19.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 6th, 1867.

Is Massowah proposed by Sir Robert Napier as the place of landing? What amount of force does he propose to send?

No. 20.

In reply to
No. 19.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 9th, 1867.

Colonel Merewether has not arrived, and, therefore, opinions may change, but at present the Commander-in-Chief prefers Massowah, and proposes a force of 12,000 men,—four field batteries, one squadron of European Cavalry, 4 regiments of Native Cavalry, 3 regiments of European and 8 regiments of Native Infantry, 2 companies of Sappers and Miners, a mountain train, and the Punjab Pioneers. I have no doubt that this may be reduced; for such a force, with followers, rations alone for 30 days would need 10,000 mules, or 5,000 mules and a great many camels. Officers will start immediately to Massowah for information, and to Bussorah, Bushire, and Mocha for transport animals. Have you selected Colonel Merewether to be Commander-in-Chief? It is most important to know this. Our requisitions are 4,000 of each of the following articles:—serge, flannel shirts, Guernsey shirts, stockings, nightcaps, and gloves; 500 great coats, blankets, and boots, spare boots and laces; 12,000 pounds salt beef, 70,000 pounds of pork, 35,000 pressed potatoes and compressed vegetables, 30,000 pounds of desiccated milk, 50 dozen bottles of essence of beef, 100 dozen half-pound bottles of compressed hay, 500 tons of waterproof sheeting for 30,000 men and followers, 2 Perkins's portable steam ovens and portable cooking range, 2,000 waterproof covers instead of tarpaulins, 1,000 bell tents, 50 hospital tents; quantity subject to reduction in proportion as the force is reduced.

No. 21.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 9th, 1867.

When the expedition is finally decided on, we shall want Colonel Alfred Lucas, Assistant Commissary-General, to come out by the next mail. Have not had an answer about the purchase of the transports.

See Nos. 12
and 22.

No. 22.*

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 10th, 1867.

Colonel Merewether has a vessel, but it is large, and will be wanted for transport. We propose to organize a despatch service, and will send a smaller vessel in its place when it is ready. There are here two capital steamers for sale, well suited for transports, for about two lacs each. It would cost more than one lac each to charter them for six months, and it would be economical to buy them. We have for sale three condemned vessels, worth nearly enough to buy one of the steamers. The requisition for stores will be sent to-morrow.

No. 23.

Telegram from the Governor General to the Secretary of State for India,
August 10th, 1867.

Is any, and what, proportion of instalment of money to be advanced by this Government for the expenditure on account of the Abyssinian expedition? Money will probably be required at Aden. It is understood that crowns and dollars are current in Abyssinia. We have no crowns; and dollars, which might be got from Scinde, are scarce. In Abyssinia rupees would pass, at a discount.

* This message was sent in consequence of a request that No. 12, part of which was obscure, might be repeated.

Dr. BEKE to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Bekesbourne, August 10th, 1867.

The intelligence just received from Abyssinia is such as will doubtless lead Her Majesty's Government to decide, not merely in breaking off now and for ever all friendly relations with the usurper of the throne of Abyssinia, but also on adopting for the future, with respect to that country, the policy recommended to your Lordship's predecessor in office, in my letter of April 4th, 1848. Had that policy been adopted at the time, there would have been no room for the misfortunes and disgrace to which England has been subjected during the last few years, and the extreme complications which exist at the present moment.

We have paid a heavy penalty for our interference in Abyssinian politics, but there are still the means of setting ourselves right, and, if only we can extricate ourselves from the existing difficulty without loss of honour, we may have done for ever with this mischievous and unprofitable interference, and may thenceforth trust to the establishment and development of commercial relations with that most important part of Eastern Africa for a compensation, and more than compensation, for all the losses we have sustained, without appealing to any higher motives in this utilitarian age.

As long as Her Majesty's Government continued to recognize the whole of Abyssinia as one state under the sovereignty of the Emperor Theodore, there was an incompatibility in regarding the rulers of the several provinces otherwise than as rebels. But, now that he is disowned, the state of things reverts to what it was in 1848, when I wrote, "each provincial governor in Abyssinia (and the King of Shoa is, *de jure*, nothing more) is *de facto*, an independent sovereign, and the true policy of England clearly is to recognize each separately, within his own dominions."

In my letter of April 27th, 1866, to the Earl of Malmesbury, printed in the Blue Book on Abyssinia, just presented to Parliament (pages 143-145), I enumerated and described the principal Chiefs in arms against Theodore. Without adverting to the claims set up by some of them to replace Theodore as the ruler of the whole empire, it will be sufficient, on the present occasion, to refer to the offer to undertake the liberation of the British captives, which I understand has been made by two of the insurgent princes, namely, the virtually independent rulers of the provinces or kingdoms of Tigré and Shoa, Waagshun and Góbazyé and Negus Ménilek.

Should such offers really have been made, I would respectfully submit to your Lordship that they should both be accepted without hesitation and without loss of time, and that arms and ammunition, a subsidy of money, and, if necessary, a small body of soldiers, should be supplied to them both.

In making this suggestion I would, however, express the fervent hope that Her Majesty's Government may not be induced by any consideration to relax for one single moment in their own exertions to effect the liberation of the captives, by the employment of a British force, independently of all local aid whatever. To relinquish this duty to the agency of any Native Chief or Chiefs, however friendly disposed, would have the appearance of being unable, through weakness, to accomplish the task ourselves, and would assuredly be so understood; and it could not fail to be attended with most injurious results, not merely as regards the loss of prestige throughout the East, but, not improbably, also as affecting the fate of the prisoners themselves, who might, after all, be detained by their liberators with a view to obtain better terms for their ransom, whereby a fresh and yet more indelible stain would be cast on the honour of the British nation.

It might be unnecessary to march a British army as far as Magdala, or indeed anywhere into the interior of Abyssinia. It would be sufficient, at all events in the first instance, to land the troops and let them ascend to the edge of the table-land, and there encamp, in expectation of the arrival of the captives, but ready to march forward should it become necessary to do so. Should, happily, the force have to return, in consequence of the delivery up of the captives, the moral effect of such a demonstration would be incalculable.

In such a case, the spot which I would suggest for the encampment of a British force is Senafé, which place is alluded to in my letter to your Lordship of April 12th last (Blue Book, page 140), and in Colonel Merewether's Despatch of January 15th last (*Ibid.*, page 100, where the name is printed Tenaffee).

Before proceeding to submit to your Lordship the reasons for this suggestion, I would beg leave to premise that, in my said letter of April 12th, I mentioned that on my

journey to Abyssinia last year I discovered that the river Hadás falls into Annesley Bay, near the site of the ancient city and port of Adulis, thus establishing the correctness of the opinion, long entertained by me, that in this direction we should look for the key of Abyssinia. I ought to have added in my said letter, that at the same time I discovered that the Hadás is joined by a considerable stream named Aligaddi, which was crossed by my wife and myself on May 7th, 1866, near where the former turns off westward to the sea, between Adulis and its modern representative Zulla. Two months previously, on our journey up country, we had crossed a sandy and stony valley without a drop of water in it, but at the moment of our return a sudden fall of rain in the upper country had rendered it a muddy torrent 25 or 30 yards in breadth and about two feet deep, the water, as we were informed on the spot, coming from 16 villages in Hamaseyn, as far north as Asmara.

In the map accompanying M. Munzinger's work, "*Ostapi Kanische Studien*," published at Schaffhausen in 1864, the Hadás is not marked as turning off eastwards to the sea, whilst all the watercourses to the north of 15° north latitude, between Kaiyakhor and Asmara, are laid down as running northwards instead of southwards; and, as this map was constructed by the well known geographer and cartographer Dr. Petermann, it must be taken to have been based on the latest and best authorities. Consequently, on my arrival at Massowah, I thought it only right to point out to M. Munzinger these errors in his map.

In the map accompanying my own work, "*The British Captives in Abyssinia*," published in December 1866, I introduced for the first time these important changes in the hydrography of this portion of the Abyssinian coast, which, notwithstanding its vicinity to Massowah, had remained so imperfectly known. Of course, the Aligaddi could only be laid down approximately, as I had only seen it where I crossed it.

I am happy to learn, from M. Munzinger's sketch of the road to Kaiyakhor, dated March 1st, 1867, contained in the Blue Book (page 136), that these my corrections are confirmed and adopted by him. As is only natural, the Aligaddi—written "*Alygwadey*" by M. Munzinger, in whose former map "*Alligidi*" is a village on a watercourse running down to Massowah—is much more correctly laid down than in my map of December 1866, as resulting from an actual survey of its whole course. It is not a little singular that exactly 23 years before I thus crossed the Aligaddi in the lower part of its course, namely, on May 4th, 1843, I crossed the upper portion of the same stream near Kaiyakhor; but from its extraordinary winding course in that vicinity, as is so clearly shown in M. Munzinger's present sketch, I fell into the error of other travellers, of supposing it to be the head of the "*Midimbar*," a watercourse marked in my map of 1844, contained in the 17th volume of the "*Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*," as running towards Massowah. In briefly noting the road I then took, I said ("*Journal*," p. 64), "After quitting the table-land of Seráwe, at Gura, I descended from Kaiyakhor to Massowah by a gradual and easy road, well watered, and occupying two days and a half very gentle travelling. This is so much superior to the steep way up the Taranta that it is now generally chosen by Europeans; and another important advantage is gained by taking it, which is, that Arkiko is avoided, together with all the annoyances and extortions to which the traveller used there to be exposed."

Whilst now fully confirming what I thus said three and twenty years ago as to the superiority of the road by Kaiyakhor over that of the steep mountain pass of Taranta, it is necessary to explain that this must not be understood as meaning that the former road is preferable to that up the valley of the Hadás altogether.

This explanation is imperatively called for, not merely by what I have stated above, but likewise by an observation of Colonel Merewether in his Despatch to your Lordship of January 15th, 1867 (Blue Book, p. 100). When speaking of the roads into the interior from Annesley Bay, that accomplished Officer says, "There are two, one to Halai, taken by Dr. Beke last year, and which is not a good one for laden camels; the other, the old caravan road from Adoolis to Tenafée (Senafé). This last has not been frequented of late years, and is overgrown with jungle; but it was much used when Adoolis was a Greek colony, and I cannot help thinking will, on further inquiry, prove as good as any, at any rate, well worth examination hereafter, should entrance into Abyssinia become necessary."

On what is thus said I would beg permission to remark, that the better opinion would seem to be, that the original Greek caravan road, as described in Arrian's "*Periplus of the Red Sea*," was from Adulis up the valley of the Hadás to Coloç, of which Halai (the same name slightly corrupted) is the modern representative; and that it was not till the Greek merchants were forced to abandon Adulis and retire to the island of Orine (the "mountainous"), now Dissee (or, properly, Dissyet, meaning in Amharic the "island"),

at the entrance of Annesley Bay, that they adopted the road from Orine, along the western shore of the gulf, to Buré, and thence ascended to the edge of the table land by the pass of Senafé, where they founded a city, of which the ruins still exist.

However this may be, it is not to be supposed that the road up the valley of the Hadás is not a good one for loaded camels, because of the steep ascent which is usually chosen by merchants and travellers, by the pass of Taranta to Diksa, or by that of Shumfaito (taken by myself) to Halai. As far up the valley as the foot of those passes loaded camels go with perfect ease. There the baggage has to be taken from the camels and placed on bullocks sent down from the villages on the table-land. But if, instead of this, the direct course of the valley southwards be followed as far as Tohonda, about 10 miles beyond the foot of Taranta, there is a road which appears to be quite equal to that by Kaiyakhor, as it ascends gradually, and is said to be practicable for camels all the way up, if only a few rocks were removed out of the way.

The road by Buré to Senafé appears to be equally good, if not even better. The height of the latter place is equal to that of Halai, 8,400 feet above the ocean, but the ascent is much more gradual. By Buré and Senafé is the direct road from the north end of the great salt plain of Hasho, which supplies Abyssinia with its present currency, pieces of rock salt; and a military force stationed at Senafé would have the command of the pass and the control of the supply of this valuable and essential commodity.

When Mr. Salt was in Abyssinia he was very inquisitive about this road by Buré, which his friend Ras Walda Selásye told him was the best approach from the coast, it being not more than four days' journey from Antalo, and well supplied with water and cattle. I have not been able to find any definite result of Mr. Salt's inquiries; but it is not unlikely that some record of the same is preserved in the archives of the Foreign Office, in connexion with the negotiations entered into about 40 years ago for the cession by Dedjatj Sabagádis to the English of a portion of the Abyssinian coast at Hánfila (Amphilla), and again about ten years afterwards for the cession of Haréna (Arena) in Howákil Bay by Sabagádis's son, Shum-Agámeye Kássai.

As is shown in the enclosed sketch, the distance of Senafé, in a direct line from the sea at Harkíko (Arkiko) is 53 geographical miles, at Haréna 48 miles, at Zulla 33 miles, and at the south-west end of Annesley Bay only 30 miles; so that, if necessary, a communication might be kept up with the sea coast in more than one direction. On the road from Zulla, as I know from personal investigation, there is water all the way down to close to the sea-shore. Zulla is about four miles from the sea. About a mile nearer the coast, I saw wells sunk in the sandy channel of the Hadás, which affords a copious and constant supply of water, and, when it is considered that this channel drains the joint basins of the Hadás and the Aligáddi, of which the area may be roughly estimated at 1,000 square miles, it is manifest that far more water must be accumulated in its bed than in that of any watercourse in its vicinity, and hence we can understand why the Greeks should have founded their emporium, Adulis, at this particular spot, which has, however, been described, on high authority, as being without water.

The desirability of getting away as quickly as possible, not merely from the intensely hot shores of the Red Sea, but likewise from the intermediate districts, 2,000, 3,000, or even 4,000 feet high, to the bracing climate of the table-land, at upwards of 8,000 feet above the ocean, does not require to be insisted on.

I cannot say, from actual experience, how long it would take to go from the coast to Senafé, but the time could not but be very short. My wife and I, in travelling on mule-back the whole way between Arkiko and Halai, employed 25 hours in going, and 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours in coming back, of which five hours were consumed in the ascent and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the descent of Mount Shumfaito. From near Halai, at a perpendicular height of a mile and a half above the ocean, we perceived the sea beyond Arkiko, and heard the firing of cannon at Massowah. The distance from Zulla to Senafé is less than that from Arkiko to Halai, and the road being much better could be travelled in less time. From the south end of Annesley Bay by Buré, the distance and time would be considerably reduced. From Senafé I have no doubt the sea is visible both at the end of Annesley Bay and at Haréna.

A very great advantage of Senafé, by whatever road it may be reached, is that it is much further south than any other point at which the table-land may be reached, it being only 200 miles from Magdala in a direct line; and it would, therefore, effect a considerable saving, both of distance and of time, in the march of an army on that place by the "upper road," recommended in my letter of April 12th, (Blue Book, p. 140), and mentioned in my letter of July 26th (which, I am sorry to perceive, has not been included in the papers laid before Parliament), as having been that taken by Don Christopher da Gama's brave little army in 1542.

I am glad to see that Dr. Blanc's testimony is in favour of this upper road. He says

(Blue Book, p. 103), "The road through Talanta to Lasta and Sokota is said to be "much easier than the one from Debra Tabor, a large portion of the intervening tract "between here and the Tacazze being a low plain." Only, in speaking of a "low" plain, Dr. Blanc falls into the common error of travellers in Abyssinia pointed out by me in page 147 of the Blue Book, who not unnaturally imagine that the plains must be below and the mountains above. A glance at the map will convince the most cursory observer that a region in which are the sources of rivers running east, west, north, and south, cannot possibly be a "low" plain. Besides, I have myself been at the Sokota and beyond, and can therefore speak with authority as to the nature of the country.

Before concluding, I would take the liberty of again referring to the alternative plan suggested in my letter of April 12th last (Blue Book, p. 141), of landing a small force at Rahéita, to proceed directly to Magdala by forced marches, and carry it by a *coup de main*. In addition to what is there stated, I would beg leave to suggest that it might be well for a vessel of war to remain off Rahéita, and to retain on board some of the Chiefs of that place and of the tribes on the road as hostages for the good treatment of the expedition; though, at the same time, there needs not to be fear of treachery on their part, if well paid. In addition to what is said in the Blue Book in this subject, I would beg leave to refer to my report of December 17th, 1864, communicated by Sir William Coghlan to the India Office, with his memorandum of that date printed in page 146; and in doing so, it is proper I should remark that, in consequence of the concluding paragraphs of that memorandum being placed within inverted commas, it might seem as if the words of that paragraph were mine, whereas they are Sir William's own closing observations.

Of my report of December 17th, 1864, no portion whatever is given in the Blue Book, which is to be regretted, because it so plainly points out the physical objections to the road between Tadjurrah and Shoa, and the advantages of that between Rahéita and Magdala.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES BEKE.

No. 25.

Dr. BEKE to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord, Bekesbourne, August 13th, 1867.

The statement made in the "Times" newspaper of the 10th instant, by a correspondent, "H. L.," to the effect that, in 1847, Government forwarded to the King of Shoa a box containing 500 sovereigns, as a present, which he returned because the gold was not sufficiently pure, induces me to submit for your Lordship's consideration the following observations on the subject of the currency of Abyssinia, with reference to the contemplated expedition to that country.

In the first place, I would beg leave to remark that, unless the alleged occurrence be altogether apocryphal, the sending of gold coin, or, indeed, gold in any form, to Abyssinia, would appear to be ill advised, seeing that this precious metal is an article of export from that country; and that, though used in former times as a circulating medium, it is now quite driven out of course through the poverty of the country, the only currency at the present day being blocks of salt from the salt plain of Harho, and silver Austrian species dollars of the year 1780, introduced since that year to replace the native gold withdrawn.

On the subject of these dollars, I perceive Sir William M. Coghlan makes the following remarks, in his valuable communication to your Lordship of 20th March last, printed in the Abyssinian Blue Book.

At page 125, he says,—“Austrian Maria Theresa dollars, of A.D. 1708 (misprinted “for ‘1780’) are at present the only coin current in Abyssinia, and bricks of salt, “brought from the district of Taltals, the only small change. Rupees, though refused at “first, were eventually received both in Afghanistan and Persia; but those countries “already possessed a silver currency of their own, and were therefore better acquainted “with the value of our coin. As a similar result may not follow in Abyssinia, the atten- “tion of the Paymaster, in conjunction with the Political Officer, should be specially “directed to this important subject.”

And again, Sir William Coghlan says, in page 126,—“The Officer of the Paymaster's “Department would be directed to confer with the merchants and other traders at “Mussowah, regarding the money current in the interior, the best means of obtaining “supplies of the requisite kind or kinds, and how far the local resources will be available “for the sundry requirements of the expedition.”

On these remarks, dictated by sound judgment, I would take the liberty of suggesting that the introduction of rupees, or any coin other than the well known Austrian dollars, would be attended with very great loss, and might lead to serious inconvenience, and even injury to the expedition.

As regards the loss, I speak from my own experience of what took place with Major Harris's mission to Shoa in 1841. If I mistake not, rupees alone were taken; at all events, the soldiers of the escort received their pay in that coin; and, as a native Abyssinian will not receive even a Maria Theresa dollar unless it has all the distinguishing marks which give it currency, it may be well understood that no countryman, bringing his goods for sale to the weekly markets, would accept a rupee in payment at any price. The soldiers had, therefore, no alternative but to change their rupees with the Mahomedan traders of Alin Amba, some of whom, having been at Aden, knew full well the intrinsic value of the coin.

The exchange operation stood thus. The dollar being in Shoa worth (more or less) 20 pieces of salt, called *ámolés*, if the former be estimated at 50 pence sterling, which is about its value, the latter would be worth $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ each. Now, assuming, for the sake of round numbers, that the rupee is worth $22\frac{1}{2}d.$ sterling, this coin ought to have purchased 9 *ámolés* of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ each; instead of which the poor soldiers obtained only 5 *ámolés*, which, as against dollars, made the rupee to fetch only about $12\frac{1}{2}d.$ sterling, causing the men a loss of $10d.$ on each rupee!

On extensive operations, the *agio* might not be so large, but there can be no doubt that a considerable loss would be incurred if rupees were used instead of the proper circulating medium, Austrian Maria Theresa species dollars of the year 1780.

But, even as regards this latter money, it is necessary to exercise great care in the selection of the coined pieces, otherwise they will be refused. A "male" dollar, as those are called which are wanting in any of the distinguishing signs,—namely, a diadem of pearls, a pearl brooch on the shoulder, and the Mint mark, "S.F.," is subject to an *agio* of 5 per cent., 19 *ámolés* being given instead of 20, if, indeed, it is not absolutely rejected.

In saying this, I am not speaking merely of my experience in Shoa, a quarter of a century ago, but of that in Tigré, only last year. Knowing what was required, I was particularly careful in obtaining dollars of the orthodox stamp, and I believe that I did not take with me a single one not possessing the essentials. But even this was not sufficient. On some of my dollars the distinguishing marks were not quite clear and distinct, and I often had to offer every piece I happened to have in my purse before one was found to satisfy the fastidious taste of the person from whom I was purchasing the necessaries of life, such as sheep, grain, fowls, eggs, milk, &c.; on more than one occasion, the commodities were taken away, because I had no dollars at hand that pleased; and it even went so far that, after the selection had been made, the seller had departed with his money, and the articles purchased had been wholly or in part consumed, he would return later in the day or on the following morning, to ask me to exchange the dollar for a better-looking one!

As to obtaining supplies of the requisite kind of money through the merchants and traders at Massowah, I am afraid that little could be depended on in that quarter; and that, further, it would be futile, if not dangerous, to trust to local resources for the considerable sums of suitable money requisite for the efficient conduct of the Commissariat of a large invading force.

Whilst expressing the hope that the present communication may not be regarded as uncalled for, I would beg permission to avail myself of the opportunity to say a few words in explanation of what is said in the letter which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 10th instant, with reference to the road from Buré and Senafé, from the north end of the great salt plain which supplies Abyssinia with its present currency. In there saying that a military force stationed at Senafé would have the command of the pass and the control of the supply, the *exclusive* control was not intended. There are, doubtless, other passes further to the south. Still, were once a British force encamped at the edge of the table-land, anywhere in the vicinity of the salt plain, the whole of the passes in that direction might easily be occupied, and the supply of this valuable and essential commodity effectually brought under control.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES BEKE.

No. 26.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, August 13th, 1867.

With reference to the correspondence which has taken place between this Office and the Foreign Office, on the subject of the release of the Abyssinian captives, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Stanley, that Sir Stafford Northcote has been in communication with the Governments of India and Bombay, both by letter and by telegraph, and that he has instructed the latter Government to proceed without delay to take certain preliminary steps in anticipation of the possibility of its becoming necessary to send an armed expedition into the territory of King Theodorus.

Nos. 7,
and En-
re to
38.

Sir Stafford Northcote has instructed Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald to despatch certain selected Officers, connected with the Commissariat and other public Departments, to the coast of the Red Sea, in order to make, in communication with Colonel Merewether, the Political Resident at Aden, inquiries into the features and resources of the country to be visited, and, if necessary, to make preparations with a view to the disembarkation and accommodation of any military force that may be sent into King Theodore's dominions. He has also instructed the Governor of Bombay to proceed to the collection of transport cattle, bearing in mind that it is desirable that his preparations should be of such a character as to be available for the season of 1868-69, in the event of its being found impossible to conduct the desired operations to a conclusion in the season of 1867-68.

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These instructions have been acknowledged, and I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to transmit to you copies of telegrams which he has received from Mr. Fitzgerald, stating that he has sent for Colonel Merewether, in order that he may confer with him; that some Officers are about to proceed to Massowah, for the purpose of collecting information; and that other Officers are to be despatched to Bussorah, Bushire, and Mocha, in order to collect transport animals. Mr. Fitzgerald suggests that it would be desirable that some communication should be made to the Turkish and Egyptian Governments, requesting that their Officers may be instructed to facilitate the proceedings of the British functionaries despatched for the collection of camels and mules, and, generally, in any preparations which it may be desirable to make for the expected expedition. Sir Stafford Northcote, therefore, desires that you will communicate to Lord Stanley an expression of his wish, that his Lordship will take the necessary steps for this purpose; and it might also be desirable that measures should be taken to facilitate the collection of carriage cattle in Egypt itself.

With reference to the inquiry made by the Government of India, as to the advances of money which may be required from the Indian Treasury, Sir Stafford Northcote requests that Lord Stanley will inform him as to the answer that should be sent to this message. As it is understood that the whole expense of the expedition shall be borne by the Imperial Exchequer, Sir Stafford Northcote presumes that it will be desirable that no steps involving expenditure should be taken without the consent of the Lords of the Treasury.

Sir Stafford Northcote would also be glad to know whether he may authorize the Governor of Bombay to purchase the steam transports to which he refers.

With reference to the question of stores, which, it is stated, are required for purposes of the expedition, they could, if the arrangement be considered desirable, be provided by the Store Department of this Office, and, in such case, Sir Stafford Northcote will cause an estimate of the probable expense to be prepared.

I am to state that a copy of this letter will be sent to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 27.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

India Office, August 13th, 1867.

I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to forward to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, copy of a letter which has been this day

26.

addressed to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of a projected armed expedition to Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 28.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 13th, 1867.

In reply to
Nos. 20 and
22.

It is proposed that the command should be given to Sir Robert Napier. You shall have an answer about the transports, when it is decided by the Cabinet.

No. 29.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 13th, 1867.

Please to give an early reply about the proposed purchase of the steamer transports. Have arrangements been made with the Governor General about finding the funds? In the Gulf and the Red Sea, drafts on Bombay are better than on Calcutta. The time is passing quickly; a month's delay may make the difference of the proposed equipment and success.

See Nos. 12
and 22.

No. 30.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor General,
August 14th, 1867.

Let the Bombay Government be supplied with any funds which they may need, to meet the expense of the Abyssinian expedition.

No. 31.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 14th, 1867.

In reply to
Nos. 29 and
22.

Authority should be given to the Officers to draw on Bombay. The Government of India have been instructed to supply you with funds. Purchase the steamers. Tell Sir Robert Napier to make a peremptory demand for the delivery of the captives, and to follow it up by such measures as he thinks expedient. We leave all preparatory measures to your discretion. Your requisitions will be complied with.

No. 32.

Mr. DUFTON to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Vine Cottage, Streatham, S.
14th August 1867.

My Lord,

About a month since I took the liberty, through Messrs Beecroft and Baines, the members for Leeds, of offering my services to the Government, with the object of being placed upon the expedition which it is proposed to send to Abyssinia for the liberation of the prisoners there detained by King Theodore. The grounds on which I thought my services might be acceptable were the following:—

1st. I am the last Englishman who visited Abyssinia previous to our countrymen's captivity. I entered that country on November 24th, 1862, by way of Mattamma, and in company with M. Lejian, the French Consul, but not in his service. From Mattamma I proceeded to Wechni, Tchelga, Genda, and Debrā Tabor, at which latter place (the King's capital) I stayed nearly four months. I also visited the King's camp at Woffer-

ghaf, on the borders of the Blue Nile, and made several excursions around Debra Tabor, among others, to the summit of Mount Gunna, 20 miles on the road to Magdala. I left Debra Tabor in April 1863, proceeding thence through the centre of the country to Oxum and Adowa, and so on to Halai and past the Bay of Zullah to Massowa, arriving at the latter port in June the same year (1863). I left Abyssinia just four months previous to our Consul's imprisonment, which, had I stayed that time longer, I should certainly have shared.

2d. I should be the only Englishman on the expedition who would be able to identify King Theodore in the event of his being taken prisoner. This at first sight might appear a small matter, as it might be argued that the usual surroundings of royalty would be a sufficient mark of distinction; but such is really not the case. In the first place, should the King give us battle, according to the custom of the country, four of his generals would be clothed in the royal habiliments as a blind to the enemy, who would thus see, apparently, five Kings instead of one. Should, on the other hand, the King put his prisoners to death, and seek safety by flight to the wilds of his native Kuara, he would certainly cast the royal robes, which would only serve to betray him, and adopt the more simple dress of a peasant. Moreover, it is well known that, on ordinary occasions, the King's dress is not a whit different from that of his lowliest subjects. The consequence is, that his features would be the only means of identification, and, though there would be, no doubt, many Abyssinians in our army who would be able to prove his identity, it might be desirable to have it confirmed by an Englishman on the spot. Now, I having during my late visit had several interviews with His Majesty (on one of which occasions he offered to make me his English secretary), his lineaments are sufficiently impressed on my memory to enable me to say without hesitation "That's the man."

3d. By five years' travel in the East (Egypt, Nubia, the Soudan, Abyssinia, Arabia, and Syria) I have acquired an adequate knowledge of Arabic, the language of those countries, and much spoken in Abyssinia; a little of Amharic, the language of Theodore's territory; and a general amount of travelling experience and topographical knowledge which I think might be of service to the expedition. The above countries, and especially Abyssinia, have been my study for the last ten years.

4th. I know personally Mr. Rassam, Dr. Blanc, Captain Cameron, M. Kerans, Messrs. Flad, Waldmaier, Bender, Saalsmüller, Mayer, Steiger, Brandeis, Essler, Schiller, Schimper, Burgaud, Morits, Zander, and their families, nearly all of whom, together with Lieutenant Prideaux, Messrs. Stern, Rosenthal, M'Kilvie, and Pietro, are at present prisoners. Many of these are my intimate friends, from whom I have received much personal kindness, and who, for that reason, have a right to expect, not only my heartfelt sympathy, but every exertion on my part (however ineffectual, from the peculiarity of the circumstances, that may be) towards obtaining their liberation. In order to prove that I have not neglected my duty in this respect, I may state that I was one of the first to offer my services to the late Government to be the bearer of despatches to King Theodore, but, having nothing to recommend me further than my having just returned from Abyssinia, and having been well received by His Majesty, my offer was declined. I trust, also, that the course I am at present taking, whether successful or not, may serve as evidence of the same.

5th. Finally, I may state that should your Lordship be of opinion that my knowledge and services would be of any use whatever either to Colonel Merewether at the present moment, or to the expedition should it be sent, I shall be perfectly ready to proceed at a few days' notice to Massowah, or wherever else it might be thought I should be of service.

For testimonials of my trustworthiness, I think I may refer to Messrs. Beecroft and Baines, the members for Leeds, and to Colonel Stanton at Alexandria (I having spent some years with Messrs. Pyesmith & Co., of that town, who are well known to Colonel Stanton).

I should be most happy, should it please your Lordship, to give (either in writing or by means of a personal interview) my views on the present aspect of the Abyssinian question, and on the best course for the expedition to adopt in reaching the territory of King Theodore.

I have, &c.,
HENRY DUFTON.

No. 33.

Dr. BEKE to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Sir,

Bekesbourne, August 14th, 1867.

From the "Further Correspondence respecting the British Captives in Abyssinia," which has just been presented to Parliament by command of Her Majesty, you will perceive that, in my desire to render my knowledge and experience useful to Her Majesty's Government in the present difficulty, I have made various communications to Lord Stanley.

Since the papers contained in the Blue Book were sent to the printer, I have made several other communications to his Lordship, and, in particular, I addressed to him, on the 13th instant, a letter on the important subject of the coined money that would be required for the service of a military expedition into Abyssinia. No. 25

I now take the liberty of transmitting to you a copy of my said letter, and of requesting your consideration of its contents, as preliminary to, and explanatory of, the remarks and suggestions which I would presume to make to you as the Chancellor of Her Majesty's Exchequer.

As the success of any such expedition must greatly depend on the efficiency of the Commissariat Department, and as, again, that efficiency must mainly depend on the means at the disposal of that Department for the purchase of supplies, the payment of the troops, and various other matters that do not require particularizing, it is a mere truism to say that the first essential is an ample supply of funds. But not only must the supply be ample; to be really serviceable, it must consist of good money current in the country.

From my letter to Lord Stanley you will perceive that the Abyssinians have no coinage of their own, but that at the present day the currency of the country consists of pieces of native rock salt, and of silver Austrian species dollars of the year 1780, bearing the effigy of the Empress and Queen Maria Theresa; and it is particularly to be remarked, that not every dollar of that Sovereign passes current in Abyssinia, but only those of that year on which the Empress is represented with a diadem of pearls on her head and a pearl brooch on the shoulder, with the mint mark S. F. beneath. A coin wanting any of these distinguishing marks is not taken, except at an agio of 5 per cent., or even more; and, if any of the marks are indistinct or defaced, it may cause the dollar to be rejected altogether.

You will also perceive from my said letter, that these Austrian species dollars are alone current in Abyssinia, and that gold sovereigns and silver rupees, the currency of England and India, have both been introduced, but have found no favour. As to Spanish pillar dollars, so common in the East, they are unknown in Abyssinia.

In my letter to Lord Stanley I have expressed the opinion that it is not likely a sufficient number of Austrian dollars would be met with at Massowah, or in the interior of Abyssinia. I may now add, that I doubt whether they could be collected in the various ports of the Red Sea. They are not always to be met with, even in Egypt, as I know from my own experience. On December 28th, 1865, when leaving Alexandria, I desired to invest an additional sum of 200*l.* sterling in Austrian dollars, but there were none to be had. I had, therefore, to leave my draft in the hands of my agent, with instructions to purchase with the proceeds some dollars which were then expected from Trieste, and to send them after me. This he did, but they did not reach me till February 18th, 1866, at Massowah, where I had myself arrived on January 15th. It so happened that I was detained there by other causes; but, had I been otherwise prepared to start on my journey into the interior, the delay in the arrival of these dollars might have been of serious consequence.

Inasmuch, then, as there would be no certainty of obtaining the requisite funds on the spot, or in the surrounding regions, it becomes necessary to devise some other means of procuring them, and with this view I would beg leave respectfully to submit the following scheme.

Though the Austrian species dollar has long been out, of course, within the Austrian dominions, it is in large circulation throughout the Levant and in the ports of the Red Sea, and is (as has already been stated) the sole coin current in Abyssinia.

Being no longer current in Austria, the species dollar has long ceased to be coined in the Government mints. But, as it is so important to the commerce of the Levant and the Red Sea, the Austrian Government allow it to be coined for export to those parts by

private individuals. I do not know the terms of the concession, but I presume that the Government are allowed a certain royalty. I was informed last year that the privilege was in the hands of some banking or commercial house at Venice, but I cannot say whether this is the case now that city has become Italian. Not improbably it has been transferred to some Austrian establishment at Trieste.

Assuming this private mint to be still in existence, the simplest and most natural course would at first sight seem to be, that the requisite supply of dollars should be obtained from thence. But there are several objections to this.

In the first place it would be necessary to enter into a definite contract for the supply of a certain number of dollars within a certain time or at certain intervals. The contractors would consequently have to make immediate preparations for the work; and, as it is likely their establishment is on no very large scale, they might have to incur considerable preliminary expenses, for which of course they would require indemnification. But, at the present moment, it is not absolutely certain that a large number of dollars would be required, so that such preliminary expenses, and even the contract itself, might eventually be to no useful purpose. And yet unless such a contract were entered into immediately, and the preliminary arrangements at once proceeded with, the dollars might not be ready when wanted.

In the next place, the dollars now issued by this private mint, though they may be of the stipulated weight and standard, are not so well coined as those which issued in former years from the Government mints; and, in particular, the dies are not nearly so well sunk. Hence the objections made by the Abyssinians to the newly coined dollars, which objections I, who am as intimately acquainted with all the minutiae as any native Abyssinian, must admit to be well founded, looking at the matter in an Abyssinian point of view. The dollars which were sent after me to Massowah were received by my agent direct from Trieste, having never been in circulation nor even in the market, and they were decidedly the most badly coined lot I ever saw. Hence the trouble I was put to in passing them in Abyssinia, as is mentioned in my letter to Lord Stanley. It is not unreasonable to anticipate that, were any large number of dollars supplied on contract and prepared in haste, they would be inferior in execution even to mine of last year, whereby much inconvenience and loss to the Commissariat of the expedition could not fail to ensue.

I will not dwell on the profits of the contractors on the supply of the dollars, which would be so much loss to the British Treasury; and I will altogether leave out of account the loss that might possibly be occasioned by a large quantity of dollars supplied under the contract remaining on hand, inasmuch as they might eventually, if not immediately, be put into circulation at Aden or in Egypt, though this is a contingency to be avoided, if possible.

The scheme, then, which I would respectfully propose for adoption, is, that Her Majesty's Treasury, should undertake the coinage of these Austrian species dollars for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, and strike them at the Royal Mint in London.

To do this, all that would be requisite is the licence of the Government of Austria. Should a price be put upon the concession, or a royalty on the amount of the silver coined be demanded, this must, of course, be agreed to. Should the private mint at Venice or Trieste possess an exclusive concession or monopoly, terms must be made with it also. But the probability is, that that establishment has nothing but the privilege of coining a certain number of dollars from time to time and that the licence to the British Government now contemplated would not interfere with that privilege.

After permission had been obtained, steps should be immediately taken at the Royal Mint for having a sufficient number of dies sunk, such dies being of the proper pattern, and not copied from those now in use at Venice or Trieste; and the usual measures should be adopted for ascertaining the standard and weight of the pieces to be coined, and for preparing for their coinage.

Whether the coinage should be proceeded with on a large scale must depend on the arrangements for the expedition; but I would submit that, under any circumstances, a small number of dollars—say 100,000—might be at once struck and despatched to Aden there to be in readiness for any emergency. So far would this operation be from occasioning loss to Her Majesty's Treasury, in the event of the dollars not being wanted for the use of the expedition, that I imagine it would, on the contrary, result in a profit.

Without possessing the data on which to estimate the advantage gained by putting such dollars into circulation, I feel persuaded that it cannot be less than 2*d.* on each dollar, and not improbably it is a good deal more. But, putting it at that low figure, the profit on 100,000 dollars would be upwards of 800*l.*, which sum would more than cover all the preliminary expenses of the licence, die sinking, assays, &c. The expense would, however, be so trifling, that, even if it were a total loss, it would not be deserving of consideration, when compared with the advantages to be derived from having the command of the funds requisite for the service of Her Majesty's Government in the best form and at the cheapest rate; and there would be this further great advantage, that, with the working power of the Royal Mint, the timely supply of the necessary funds might always be calculated on, and that it would be unlimited, whilst, on the other hand, if more dollars were coined than wanted to be issued from the Mint, the only loss on the excess would be the cost of the labour; and what is, perhaps, of more consequence than all the rest is, that the fact of the coinage being entrusted to the officers of the Royal Mint would be a guarantee, not merely for the dollars being of the proper weight and standard, but likewise for their form and appearance being such as to stand the test of the most critical and even captious examination on the part of the people among whom they are to be spent, whereby the Commissariat Department would be saved endless trouble, annoyance, waste of time, and loss of money.

Should the operation thus suggested be decided on, I beg leave respectfully to place my services at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government in the business, and especially with respect to the choice of the dies for the coinage; and, should it be deemed advisable that the concession from the Austrian Government (and, if requisite, from the private mint at Venice and Trieste) be made to a private individual, as the representative of the British Government, rather than to Government themselves or any Government officer, I beg leave to offer myself to apply for and receive such concession. In this case, however, I should, of course, be simply the nominee of the Crown, without pretending to any interference with the coinage or any profit from it as contractor.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES BEKE.

No. 34.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 15th August 1867.

I am directed by Sir John Pakington to forward herewith a copy of a description of different routes in Abyssinia which has been compiled in the Topographical and Statistical Department of this Office. These descriptions have been taken from the journeys of travellers, and have been confined, in the first instance, to such as would give a general idea of the different lines of approach into the country which have been advocated.

A great deal more information of the same description is obtainable from sources which may not be accessible to those persons in India with whom the organization of an expedition, should it take place, will rest, and, as it appears to Sir John Pakington that, in a country so little known as Abyssinia, the observations of travellers on the different routes will be of the greatest value to those who have to conduct a force into its interior, he will, if Sir Stafford Northcote thinks it desirable, give directions for further extracts to be made from all the works of travellers which bear upon the more probable lines of advance.

I am to add, that a map of the north-eastern portion of the Abyssinian highlands, as far as Gondar and Magdala, will be completed in a few days.

I have, &c.,

DOUGLAS GALTON.

No. 35.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 15th, 1867.

It is the wish of the Duke of Cambridge that Sir Robert Napier should take the command, with Sir Charles Staveley as second.

No. 36.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 15th, 1867.

What quantity of coals should be sent out to Aden?

No. 37.

Telegram from the Governor General to the Secretary of State for India,
August 15th, 1867.

I will reply by this mail to your Despatch of the 17th of July, respecting the measures to be adopted if an expedition should proceed to Abyssinia. We consider that there is every prospect of success, if the expedition be well commanded, and provided with a good political staff, entirely subordinate to the General commanding.

No. 38.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay.

No. 1. Secret.

Sir,

London, August 16th, 1867.

Your Excellency has already been made acquainted, by the various telegraphic messages which I have addressed to you, and by my confidential letter of the 31st of July, with the views of Her Majesty's Government relative to the measures to be taken in order to support the demand which Her Majesty has been advised to make upon King Theodorus of Abyssinia.

Her Majesty has been unwilling to have recourse to measures of force, until every peaceable means of obtaining the release of the British subjects whom the King so unjustifiably detains had been exhausted; and, as the King's professions have never ceased to be amicable, although he has failed to give effect to them, Her Majesty has till recently contented herself with making friendly representations which she had hoped would be attended to.

It having now, however, become manifest that the King will not release the captives until he is compelled to do so, Her Majesty has resolved on making a final and more peremptory demand upon him, and on supporting that demand by adequate military operations.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the contemplated expedition should be organized in India, and that Bombay should be selected as the base of the operations. It is their desire that it should be placed under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay army, with Brigadier-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B., as second in command, who will accordingly receive the necessary instructions from His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief.

Her Majesty's Government, having great confidence in Sir Robert Napier, desire to place the whole conduct of the negotiations, as well as the military direction of the armed force, in his hands; and to leave him to use his discretion as to the time and mode in which he will make the demand for the restoration of the captives, and the steps by which he will enforce it.

Your Excellency has already been instructed to send proper Officers to the coast of the Red Sea to make observations and preparations for an expedition; and you have also been authorized to proceed with the collection of the necessary means of transport. I am expecting to receive from you the plan of operations which I have learnt by telegraph that you have already forwarded, and I may have occasion to address you upon it by the next mail. In the meantime, I have to acquaint your Excellency that steps are being taken to supply the stores which you have intimated that you will require; and further, that I have instructed the Government of India to provide you with such funds as you may need.

The expense of the expedition will be borne ultimately by the Imperial revenues, but it will be convenient that the required advances should, in the first instance, be made out of the revenues of India. You will be careful to avoid any unnecessary expenditure, and I have to request that you will keep me informed of the advances you make, and, as far as possible, of the sums you are likely to require.

I shall send a copy of this letter to the Government of India, and I have to request that you will keep the Government of India, as well as the Home Government, acquainted with all your proceedings in connexion with this matter.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

P.S. August 19th.—I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter from the Foreign No. 42. Office, received since the above was written.

Confidential Letter referred to in No. 38.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE to Mr. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD.

My dear Fitzgerald,

India Office, July 31, 1867.

We have to-day decided in Cabinet to make preparations for the not improbable event of our being obliged to send an expedition to Abyssinia, and you will have received my telegram directing you to proceed to collect transport animals. We feel very No. 13. strongly that though it may become necessary for us to have recourse to arms, we have not at present sufficiently accurate knowledge of the country to justify us in sending troops to the coast of Abyssinia, without a careful preliminary inquiry, such as I hope you are now carrying on. It may happen that this inquiry will not be completed in time to allow of our commencing operations this year. It will be desirable, therefore, that you should so conduct your Commissariat, and especially your transport arrangements, as to make them available for next year in the event of the expedition being deferred. We must leave a great deal to your judgment, and that of Sir R. Napier. As at present advised, we contemplate, as soon as we have certain information that Theodorus refuses to liberate the captives, charging Sir Robert Napier to demand them of him, and to support his demand by force. He may proceed to do this with greater or less rapidity according to the state of his preparations, bearing in mind that it will be better to spin out the negotiation till the season for campaigning is over, than to plunge into a campaign before he is ready for it, though it will be better still if he can act this season. We shall be better able to form a judgment on what is possible when we receive the memorandum which you See No. 1 say you have sent. In the meantime, the information we receive is somewhat conflicting, and very imperfect. It is difficult to believe that if you do not begin operations till January, you can march up to Magdala, or wherever else the prisoners may be taken, effect their release, and return to the coast before the season for action is over. But you have better means of judging than we have. You will understand that you are authorised to make purchases of transport animals, if you think well to do so. Don't put us to any unnecessary expense; and wherever it is possible, make your arrangements with a view to 1868, as well as 1867. We will send you an official letter by next mail.

I remain, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 39.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay.

Secret.

August 16th, 1867.

Sir, With reference to my letter of this date, informing Your Excellency of the arrangements proposed by Her Majesty's Government for the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia, I desire that you will convey to Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether an expression of the high value which Her Majesty's Government set upon his services, and of their hope that they may be made available upon the present occasion.

For reasons which your Excellency will readily understand, Her Majesty's Government have thought it of great importance to place the whole conduct of the political as well as of the military operations in the hands of a single authority. Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether's rank is not high enough to enable him to take the supreme command of such a force as it is probable will have to be employed; and Her Majesty's Government have thought it best to place the whole expedition under the charge of an Officer whose high rank and eminent services cannot fail to be universally recognized.

I am, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 40.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

India Office, 16th August 1867.

Sir, It having been suggested, with reference to the expedition which will probably be sent to Abyssinia, that, in case Massowah is selected as the base of operations, it might be desirable to take steps for surveying and buoying the channel into that port, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to inquire what course the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty would recommend for effecting this object.

I am, &c.,

J. P. THOM,

Assistant Military Secretary.

No. 41.

Dr. BEKE to the Secretary of State for India.

Bekesbourne, August 16th, 1867.

Sir, Having been informed by Lord Stanley that the inquiries and arrangements connected with the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia are exclusively under the control of the India Office, I deem it to be my duty to acquaint you that, on the 26th and 29th ultimo, and the 10th and 13th instant, I communicated to his Lordship's Department various matters relating to that important subject, and that on the 14th instant, I addressed a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, suggesting that the Austrian specie dollars necessary for the service of the expedition should be coined at the Royal Mint in London.

As I take for granted that my said several communications, or copies of them, have been forwarded to your Department, I do not think it necessary to send you duplicates of them, but I will do so immediately, if required.

On the present occasion, I have the honour to send you a sketch map of Senafé and the country between it and the sea coast, which I request may be substituted for the one transmitted to Lord Stanley in my letter of the 10th instant; and, in doing so, I would beg leave to refer to the following passages in my letter to his Lordship of April 12th last, printed at page 139 of the Blue Book on Abyssinia just laid before Parliament:—

"Some time after I had made these several communications, I learned that there is a far preferable road by the way of Senafé, either from the head of Annesley Bay, or from Harena, in Howákil Bay, which road, I have reason to believe, was made known to your Lordship's Department by Mr. Salt, many years ago.

"Since my return to England, I have been given to understand that the approaches to North-eastern Abyssinia have been examined by Colonel Merewether, and reported on by him to Her Majesty's Government; and I take for granted that the road by Senafé has received that Officer's special attention."

My anxiety with regard to this road was in part caused by the mistaken notions generally entertained respecting it, owing to Mr. Salt's radical misconception of Mr. Coffin's journey from Hânfila (Amphila) to Antalo, by the way of Senafé, as is shown in his map. When I was in Abyssinia last year, I thought of exploring the country between Senafé and the coast, but could not do so, on account of its being in the occupation of Dedjatz Gebra Medhin, the Waagshum's Lieutenant. I was therefore obliged to content myself with such oral information as I could obtain, and, as many of the inhabitants of Halai visited that place, I was led to believe the position, as laid down in the maps of Rüppell and Parkyns, and, if I mistake not, in Keith Johnston's likewise, to be substantially correct.

On now investigating other authorities, I have come to the conclusion that the peak of Mount Senafé, possessing an elevation of 10,000 feet or more, must be where I have placed it in my present map; the distance of this peak from Harena, Gulla, and the end of Annesley Bay, being 48, 45, and 38 miles respectively.

But, as regards the position of the ruins of the ancient city of Senafé, I am unable yet to satisfy myself, nor do I believe that it can be positively determined, except by an actual survey; still my impression is that it is not far distant from where I placed it in my former sketch.

This is, however, not very material to the main point to which I have desired to direct the attention of Her Majesty's Government, namely, the general proximity of this portion of the Abyssinian table-land to the sea coast, and its eligibility for the station of a British army on its entrance into the country.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES BEKE.

No. 42.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 17th, 1867.

I have laid before Lord Stanley your Letter of the 13th instant, stating the steps No. 26. which have been taken in anticipation of the necessity of sending an expedition to Abyssinia, for the purpose of effecting the release of the captives detained by King Theodore; and I am to inform you in reply that, as Her Majesty's Government have decided on immediately prosecuting this matter, and on leaving all arrangements therewith connected to be carried out by Her Majesty's Indian Authorities, Lord Stanley has requested the Lords of the Treasury to place themselves in communication with the Secretary of State for India, in regard to the question of expenditure.

It now only remains for Lord Stanley to make the necessary communication to the Egyptian Government, with reference to facilities which it may be hoped that Government will readily afford to Her Majesty's Officers who have already been sent to Massowah, and to the troops who will have to land on the Egyptian coast before entering Abyssinia; and his Lordship will give instructions accordingly to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 43.

The Chief Clerk of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 17th August 1867.

In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, requesting to be informed what course No. 40. my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty would recommend for surveying and buoying the channel into Massowah, in case that port should be selected as the base of operations against Abyssinia, I am commanded by their Lordships to transmit herewith a copy of a Report, dated this day, from the Hydrographer to this Department, upon the subject,

and I am to state that, if the Secretary of State for India has no other views or intentions, they will take the necessary measures for preparing the beacons at Malta, and will order Her Majesty's ship "Star" from the east coast of Africa, by telegraph, to Bombay, but beacons should also be prepared at Bombay.

My Lords request an immediate answer.

I am, &c.,
JOHN HENRY BRIGGS,
pro Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 43.

Memorandum by the Hydrographer of the Admiralty.

Hydrographic Office, 17th August, 1867.

In the event of an expedition being undertaken to Abyssinia, I am of opinion that it will not only be desirable to take measures for the safe navigation of the port of Massowah, but also of the approval to that port for a considerable distance, for, although the Red Sea is sufficiently well known and surveyed to ensure the safety of a carefully navigated ship, yet it is probable that frequented, as in case of hostilities it will be, by transports and merchant vessels of all descriptions, accidents must be expected to occur.

I think it would be desirable, therefore, to assign a ship to the special duty of making the navigation clear.

The "Star," now in the East Indies and commanded by Commander Bradshaw, a competent Surveying Officer, would be very suitable for this service, and, if it is decided that active operations are to be undertaken, I recommend that the Commodore be desired by telegram to despatch the "Star" to Aden, there to await instructions from the Admiralty. She should be supplied at Bombay with a few light and convenient cask beacons, some small-sized chain and ballast for moorings, and such other gear as may be considered necessary.

The Admiral Superintendent at Malta might also be desired to prepare 24 such beacons, of flat-shaped breakers, 12 of 20 gallons, 12 of 40 gallons, with staff fitted to carry a distinguishing mark and slung ready for mooring; particulars could be conveyed to the Admiral from this Department by the Marseilles mail of the 19th. These buoys to be sent by Suez to Aden.

As a further precaution, four temporary lanterns could be provided in this country, and sent to Aden overland.

Instruments, charts, sailing directions, should also be sent to Aden, to be distributed by the Senior Naval Officer.

GEO. HENRY RICHARDS.

No. 44.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 17th August 1867.

No. 43.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, and to acquaint you in reply that Sir Stafford Northcote will communicate with the Government of Bombay, as the Lords of the Admiralty suggest, and will desire that beacons may be prepared for the purpose indicated by their Lordships.

2. He will also inform the Government of Bombay of the arrangements proposed by the Lords of the Admiralty, in which he entirely concurs.

J. P. THOM,
Assistant Military Secretary.

No. 45.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, August 17th, 1867.

No. 38.

I am directed by Sir S. Northcote to transmit to you, for the information of Lord Stanley, a copy of a letter which the Secretary of State for India has addressed to the Governor of Bombay, on the subject of the proposed measures for the release of the

Abyssinian captives; and I am to observe that Sir S. Northcote, in proposing to place the whole conduct of the operations in the hands of Sir Robert Napier, has had no intention to offer any slight to Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether, of the value of whose services as Political Agent he is very sensible. But it appeared to him that great advantage would result from placing the conduct of the political negotiations in the hands of the chief military authority. Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether's rank is not sufficient to entitle him to take the supreme command of such a force as it is in contemplation to despatch for the release of the prisoners. It is proposed, therefore, to place the entire expedition under the charge of an Officer of such high rank as to set at rest all questions of authority, and of such eminent services as cannot fail to be universally recognized.

2. Sir S. Northcote trusts that the Commander-in-Chief of the expedition will have the advantage of Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether's services, in such capacity as may be found most advantageous.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 46.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 17th, 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence, I am desired by Lord Stanley to forward to you, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, two letters which his Lordship has received from Dr. Beke, containing suggestions as to the manner in which an expedition for the release of the captives in Abyssinia should be conducted, and as to the coinage with which such an expedition should be provided. Nos. 24 and 25.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 47.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 18th, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to inform you that he has learnt from the Secretary of State for India that a copy has been sent to the Treasury of a letter addressed by the India Office to this Department on the 13th instant, respecting the steps to be taken for effecting the release of the captives detained in Abyssinia by King Theodore; and, as it has been decided by Her Majesty's Ministers that all arrangements connected with this matter shall be carried out by Her Majesty's Indian authorities, I am to request that you will move the Lords of the Treasury to communicate with the India Office in regard to the question of expenditure. No. 26.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 48.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

No. 3 (Secret).

Sir,

India Office, August 19th, 1867.

I transmit to you herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copies of letters which I have this day despatched to his Excellency the Governor of Bombay upon the subject of the operations which it may be necessary to undertake for the release of the Abyssinian captives. Although circumstances of a local character dictate the immediate equipment of the force under the superintendence of the Government of Nos. 38 and 39.

Bombay, Her Majesty's Government are desirous that your Excellency should afford Mr. Fitzgerald the benefit of your advice and assistance in furtherance of the great national objects of the projected expedition.

I am, &c.,
S. H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 49.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 96.

Sir,

India Office, 19th August 1867.

Having been in communication with the Lords of the Admiralty, relative to the course their Lordships would recommend for surveying and buoying the channel into Massowah, in case that port should be selected as the base of operations against Abyssinia, I have been furnished by them with the accompanying copy of a report from the Hydrographer to the Admiralty upon the subject, and I request that you will cause immediate effect to be given to the recommendations contained in that report in so far as your Government is concerned.

2. I also forward copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, and of its enclosures, containing suggestions as to the manner in which an expedition for the release of the captives in Abyssinia should be conducted, and as to the coinage with which such an expedition should be provided, together with copy of a further communication from Dr. Beke, just received.

3. I likewise forward three copies of further correspondence respecting the British captives in Abyssinia which have been presented to Parliament in continuation of those presented on the 10th August 1866.

4. Copy of a letter from Mr. Henry Dufton, offering his services in connexion with any expedition which may be undertaken, is forwarded, for such notice as your Government may deem necessary.

I have, &c.,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 50.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 19th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and in reply to express the thanks of Sir Stafford Northcote for the copy of a description of different routes in Abyssinia compiled in the Topographical and Statistical Department of the War Office, which accompanied that communication.

2. I am at the same time instructed to add, Sir Stafford Northcote is of opinion it is highly desirable that all available information of the same description should be obtained for the guidance of the Indian Government in the event of an expedition into Abyssinia being determined upon; he will, therefore, feel obliged if Sir John Pakington will give directions for further extracts to be made from all the works of travellers which bear upon the more probable lines of advance.

3. Sir Stafford Northcote will also be greatly obliged if he can be furnished with 15 copies (besides those already supplied) of the compilation which accompanied your letter under reply, and also with a few copies of the map of the north-eastern portion of the Abyssinian highlands, when completed.

I have, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant Military Secretary.

No. 51.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 19th, 1867.

The accounts which have passed through your hands, as transmitted to this Office by Colonel Merewether, will have prepared you for learning that Her Majesty's Government, after having exhausted all peaceful efforts to induce King Theodore to release the European prisoners detained by him in captivity in Abyssinia, have resolved, should it be found necessary, to use force for that purpose; but as that country can only conveniently be reached by passing through Egyptian territory, I have to instruct you to apply to the Egyptian Government for permission to do so, and for such facilities as they may be able to afford to the Officers who will be entrusted with the superintendence and management of the expedition, and with the purchase of supplies and of means of land transport.

Certain functionaries have already been ordered to Massowah for that purpose; and you will request that the Egyptian authorities at that port may be instructed to render them every assistance.

The object of Her Majesty's Government being merely to release the prisoners, and to punish King Theodore for his conduct in detaining and imprisoning Her Majesty's officers, the expedition will leave the country so soon as these objects are effected.

It is needless to say that Her Majesty's Government have no designs of conquest in that district.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 52.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 19th, 1867.

I have received your Despatch of the 20th ultimo, enclosing a letter addressed by Sultan Negoos Menelek to the Queen; and I now transmit to you the reply which, by the Queen's directions, I have returned to that letter.

You will cause my letter to be forwarded to the Chief by an early and safe opportunity, and you will send to this country the presents which he has made to the Queen by the first convenient opportunity.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 53.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Sultan NEGOOS MENELEK.

To His Highness Sultan Negoos Menelek.

Foreign Office,
August 19th, 1867.

I am commanded by the Queen my Sovereign to inform your Highness that she has received the letter which you lately sent to her through Colonel Merewether, her Agent at Aden. That Officer also forwarded to Her Majesty the presents which accompanied your letter, and for which she thanks you. Enclosure 2
in No. 16.

The Queen is well pleased to hear of your return to your country, and of the good health of yourself and your family. She desires me to assure you that she entertains the most friendly feelings towards yourself and your country, and that it is her sincere wish that the territories over which you have been called to rule may continue in peace and advance in prosperity. Her Majesty requests you to accept, also, her best wishes for your uninterrupted health and welfare, and so she recommends you to the protection of the Almighty.

Your sincere friend,
STANLEY.

No. 54.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir, Foreign Office, August 19th, 1867.
I have received your Despatch of the 26th ultimo, from which I learn that my letter to King Theodore, of the 16th of April last, had duly been delivered by the messenger despatched by you for that purpose, who, however, after having been kept waiting for ten days, was dismissed without a reply.

Her Majesty's Government are thus forced to the conclusion that King Theodore rejects the friendly advances of this country, and declines to comply with the demands of the Queen, that Her Officers, whom he detains in captivity, shall be released.

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government, who have exhausted all peaceful efforts, have resolved to resort to force; and it has been decided to leave the management of the expedition and of all arrangements therewith connected to Her Majesty's Indian authorities, with whom, therefore, you will communicate on the subject.

I cannot conclude this Despatch without expressing to you the warm thanks of Her Majesty's Government for your unwearied zeal in endeavouring, though fruitlessly, to effect the liberation of the captives, and for all your valuable services in this distressing case.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 55.

The Under Secretary of State for India to Dr. Beke.

Sir, India Office, August 20th, 1867.
I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, forwarding sketch map and route into the interior of Abyssinia by way of Senafé; and, in returning the Secretary of State's thanks for the information you have kindly communicated to his Department, I am to state that a copy of your letter and map, together with copies of correspondence referred to in your letter as having been sent to the Foreign Office, were forwarded by yesterday's mail to the Government of Bombay.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 56.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir, India Office, August 20th, 1867.
With reference to communications which have passed between the Foreign Office and this Department of Her Majesty's Government, on the subject of the projected expedition for the release of the British captives in Abyssinia, I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that he has been informed by Lord Stanley that all the arrangements for the prosecution of military operations in that country are to be entrusted to Her Majesty's Indian authorities. In pursuance of this intention, instructions were forwarded by yesterday's mail to the Governor of Bombay, and Sir Stafford Northcote is now anxious to ascertain from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury what are their views with respect to the course to be pursued by the Secretary of State for India in Council in matters of financial expenditure connected with the contemplated expedition.

Sir Stafford Northcote is prepared to direct the Government of India to make all necessary pecuniary advances, and he has already instructed the Governor General in Council to supply the Governor of Bombay with the funds required for the preliminary expenditure, which the Government of the latter have been authorized to incur. Sir Stafford Northcote has also desired the Government of Bombay to notify to him from time to time the amount of expenditure which they may incur, and he presumes that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will direct the amount so notified to be transferred to the accounts of the Secretary of State for India at the Bank of England. All accounts and vouchers relating to these transactions will be submitted to their Lordships in due course.

With regard to the stores which it may be necessary to supply from England for the furtherance of the expedition, Sir Stafford Northcote would be glad to be informed whether, in the opinion of their Lordships, they should be provided from the India Office or by the Departments of the Admiralty and of the Secretary of State for War.

With regard to the supply of cash, Sir Stafford Northcote is informed that there will be some difficulty in supplying cash which will be current in the Abyssinian territory. The Austrian Maria Theresa dollars of 1780 are stated to be the currency most easily negotiable. It is possible that five-franc pieces, or Spanish dollars, may also be accepted by the inhabitants of the country. Sir Stafford Northcote would suggest that steps should be immediately taken to obtain a supply of these coins, and especially of the Austrian dollars.

Rupees are the only silver coin obtainable in India, and these are said to be negotiable in Abyssinia only at a ruinous discount.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 57.

Dr. BEKE to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Bekesbourne, August 20th, 1867.

In the Blue Book on Abyssinia just laid before Parliament, is a letter from Mr. Rassam to Colonel Merewether dated Magdala, September 16th, 1866, which contains (at page 91) the following passages:—

“Dr. Beke’s foolish mission it is believed has done us all great mischief; it is very curious that no sooner did my friend (namely the Emperor) receive his letter than he took it into his head to detain us all in this country, and ask me to send to England for artisans for him. There is no one in this country who approves of the steps which Beke took in the Abyssinian matter; and as our friend is of a suspicious character, of course, he could not understand how, after the great Queen of England wrote to him upon a matter, private individuals came forward to beg of him upon their knees to grant him the same favour. Had Beke communicated to me before he addressed our friend in reference to his mission, I would have certainly advised him not to make his appearance. However, it is now no use talking over the past, the mischief has been done and now we must bear.

“It is surmised that his abrupt departure has put myself and party into this fix. It is also believed that the false rumour which reached our friend, that I had been sent on false pretences by the British Government, came from Massowah; some fools or mischief-makers I have no doubt are at the bottom of it.

“The second messenger who came from Beke (and who was half cracked) reported amongst our friend’s followers that he had heard a captain of an English steamer abuse the Abyssinians for having Englishmen in prison, and that he had . . . them and their King.”

As what is thus alleged against me by Mr. Rassam is a gross and unfounded calumny, the falsehood of which can be established by the simple collocation of facts in the regular order of their dates, I feel assured that your Lordship’s sense of justice will allow my confutation to be placed officially on record in the Foreign Office, especially as it is through your Lordship’s department that Mr. Rassam’s letter to Colonel Merewether has been laid before Parliament, and made known to the public.

Fortunately for me the dates and particulars of all the material occurrences are well known and established on the authority of Mr. Rassam himself, and they have already been put together by me in two letters which I was under the necessity of addressing to the editor of the *Times*, and which appeared in that journal on July 29th and August 2nd, in refutation of charges similar to the present one which had been brought against me by Mr. Layard, Mr. Rassam’s friend and patron in the House of Commons, and by Mr. Badger, Mr. Rassam’s brother-in-law, in the columns of the *Times*. The readiest mode, therefore, of laying the facts succinctly before your Lordship will be to give here my said two letters as they appeared in the *Times*.

July 29th, 1867.

THE ABYSSINIAN PRISONERS.

To the Editor of the *Times*.

Sir,

In the debate last night in the House of Commons, Mr. Layard is reported to you by have said that “Mr. Rassam had stated that from the moment of Dr. Beke’s arrival the King’s conduct towards him changed.”

In direct contradiction to this is the following declaration of Mr. Rassam himself, contained in a letter addressed to Colonel Playfair on March 22, 1866, which is published in the "Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society," vol. 10, p. 229:—

"At one time we were afraid that Dr. Beke's mission would spoil the good understanding happily subsisting between us, but it does not appear to have had any evil effect."

And at the still later date of April 9, as is recorded in "the Times" of July 8, 1866, Mr. Rassam despatched to me the following message:—

"The letter he (Dr. Beke) sent to the Emperor arrived on the 15th ult., and the day after His Majesty received it he sent it to me to read, with the petition from the relatives of the captives. I believe the Emperor wishes to consult me about the answer when I go to see him this week, and I have no doubt that Dr. Beke's messenger will be dismissed when we leave the Court. In that case I shall send a messenger with him to inform you of our departure hence to Matamma and Kassala."

This was written by Mr. Rassam 25 days after my letter with the petition had reached the King's hands, and the good understanding was evidently still subsisting between them, and yet Mr. Layard asserts that "Mr. Rassam has stated that from the moment of Dr. Beke's arrival the King's conduct towards him changed."

What really occasioned the great change which unhappily took place only four days afterwards has yet to be seen.

Trusting to your sense of justice to give publicity to this statement, which I feel called on to make in self-defence,

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,
CHARLES BEKE.

Bekesbourne, July 27.

August 2nd, 1867.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,

Most reluctantly do I ask you to afford me the means of answering, as publicly as it has been made, Mr. Badger's unlooked-for attack in the "Times" of this morning. But the columns of your influential journal are always open to those who are unjustly accused.

In my letter which appeared in the "Times" of the 29th ult., I said nothing whatever from myself, but simply quoted Mr. Rassam's own words as contradicting those imputed to him by Mr. Layard. As the words now imputed to him are equally inconsistent with those quoted by me, which were laid before the public more than a twelvemonth ago, I must ask Mr. Badger to have the goodness to give the date of that gentleman's letter to him.

Meanwhile, as dates are essential to the proper understanding of the subject, I would ask permission to record those of a few of the most important facts.

In his letter to Mr. Badger Mr. Rassam says that "the day after they (the liberated captives) reached Koráta it was rumoured that an Englishman had arrived at Massowah," and "a day or two" after it was confirmed by the arrival of a letter from Dr. Beke himself."

Now, it is well known that the captives arrived at Koráta on March 12, 1866; that my letter reached the Emperor's hands on March 15; and that on the same day a complete reconciliation took place between the monarch and his white prisoners.

On March 22, a week afterwards, Mr. Rassam wrote to Colonel Playfair that my letter "did not appear to have had any evil effect."

At the same or even a later date Mr. Rassam sent home a report to Government, of which a compilation, made by Colonel Merewether, was published in the "Times of India" of July 21, 1866, and has been published by me verbatim in my work "The British Captives in Abyssinia."

In this report are given full particulars of the reconciliation on March 15, and it thus proceeds:—

"Afterwards . . . the Emperor ordered the translation of Her Majesty's letter, and his answer thereto, to be read publicly by the chief scribe. Then all heard what had been written in his letter. In the letter His Majesty asks what has been done may be forgiven, and says——"

But I need not quote the words of the letter, as it will appear in the papers about to be laid before Parliament. Mr. Rassam's report concludes by announcing that "he and his party would leave after the Abyssinian Easter, which fell on the 8th of April."

On April 9 Mr. Rassam sent his message to me that he believed the Emperor wished to consult him about the answer to my letter, when he went to see him that week, and he repeats the same in his letter to Mr. Badger, adding, however, "I was never consulted on the subject, but thenceforward political combinations began to show themselves."

What those political combinations were are stated in an "Authentic Narrative" (of which probably Mr. Badger knows something), which appeared in the "Pall Mall Gazette" of February 19 last, and from which I would ask you to insert the following extract:—

"The King being still at Zágýe, Mr. Rassam asked and obtained permission for the captives to precede him into Dembea, while he and his party would pay His Majesty a final visit according to appointment, and then join Cameron and the rest on the way to Chelga. The mission started on the 13th of April 1866. On reaching Zágýe it was received by the chief minister with the usual honours; but on entering the hall of audience they were suddenly seized by a dozen of the native officers there assembled, and Dr. Blanc and Mr. Prideaux were forthwith disarmed. They could only account for this violent proceeding by supposing they had omitted some of the usual ceremonies in approaching the Royal residence. Shortly after, however, a messenger arrived from the King, who bade them to be under no apprehension, as all that His Majesty desired to know was why the captives had been sent away without being previously brought to him."

I will not occupy more of your valuable space by repeating what further took place, but sufficient has been said to show that whatever occurred was not caused by my letter, on which and on myself it

seems to be now desired to shift the blame which was previously thrown on poor Consul Cameron and Mr. Stern.

With reference to Mr. Badger's own charge against me, I can only say that I am not aware of having made in my book any malevolent or unwarrantable insinuations against Mr. Rassam personally. If I have I should be obliged by his pointing them out to me.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

Bekesbourne, Aug. 1.

CHARLES BEKE.

The facts stated in these two letters, might, of themselves, suffice to refute the charges of Mr. Rassam and his supporters, Mr. Layard and Mr. Badger. But from the documents printed in the Blue Book I am happy to have it in my power to adduce much corroborative evidence.

The first of these documents is the letter from the King to Mr. Rassam, dated Sunday the 10th of Megabit (March 18th) in which he says (B.B. p. 116), "the relatives of Cameron and his imprisoned companions have written to me in sorrow about them. By the power of God and for the sake of my friend, the great Queen Victoria, I have been reconciled to them; and by the power of our Creator we will consult on all matters when we meet."

In the same page of the Blue Book we find that on the 12th and 13th of Megabit (March 20th and 21st) the King wrote to Mr. Rassam apologizing for not being able to see him and his companions on account of his absence. On Friday the 15th of Megabit (March 23rd) he wrote in the most affectionate terms, desiring Mr. Rassam and his party with the European workmen to come to him at Zagye, and sending boats for them.

On this Mr. Rassam makes the following note (B.B. p. 116.), "after the receipt of this letter Dr. Blanc, Mr. Prideaux and myself repaired to Zagay. His Majesty gave us a most magnificent reception. He consulted with all his nobles and his best advisers about our leaving Abyssinia, and it was determined that we should all depart hence." On this occasion nothing appears to have been said respecting me, and indeed, from Mr. Rassam's message of April 9th, the subject of the answer to be given to me was not to be discussed till he went to take leave.

After Mr. Rassam and his party had returned to Kórata, the King continued writing to him the most friendly letters (B.B., pp. 116, 117) on the 20th, 22nd, 25th, 27th, and 30th of Megabit (March 28th and 30th and April 2nd, 4th, and 7th). Passion Week was during this interval, when the King according to Abyssinian custom fasted strictly and could not receive his friends; but in the second of these letters, written on March 30th, he informed Mr. Rassam that after some work had been completed by the European artisans (apparently intended as presents) he "wished them to hold themselves in readiness to start (for Europe) by the power of God."

The Abyssinian Easter fell on Sunday April 8th, and on Monday the 9th (the 2nd of Miazia) the King sent Mr. Rassam a complimentary note on the commencement of the holidays. On the same day (April 9th) that gentleman despatched to Massowah his messenger with the good tidings of his approaching departure and his message to myself, in consequence of which I felt it to be unnecessary to proceed further on my mission, and therefore returned from Halai to Massowah just in time to take my passage in the Government steamer "Victoria" which had arrived at Massowah on May 11 with Colonel Merewether on board on his way to Suez.

As may be well understood, the joyful intelligence from Mr. Rassam formed the chief topic of conversation on our passage to Suez. At the same time Colonel Merewether occupied himself in making an abstract of Mr. Rassam's despatches to the Home Government for the information of the Government of Bombay, which abstract subsequently appeared in the *Times of India* of July 21st, with the intimation that it had been made by Colonel Merewether, and it was thence copied into the *Jewish Intelligence* of October 1st. I have also given Colonel Merewether's abstract verbatim in my work, "The British Captives in Abyssinia."

Mr. Rassam's despatches to Government, from which that abstract was made, have, however, not been printed among the papers laid before Parliament.

From everything that occurred down to the 9th of April, 28 days after the report of my arrival at Massowah had first reached the King's court, and 25 days after the receipt by the King of my letter, with the petition from the relatives of the captives, it is manifest that there is not the slightest ground, nor even pretence, for Mr. Rassam's assertion, as repeated by Mr. Layard in the House of Commons, that "from the moment of Dr. Beke's arrival the King's conduct towards him (Mr. Rassam) changed;" nor for his statement in his letter to Colonel Merewether, printed in the Blue Book, that "It is very curious that no sooner did my friend (the Emperor) receive his (Dr. Beke's) letter, than he took it into his head to detain all in this country, and ask me to send to England for artisans for him."

When the subject of the artizans was first mooted between the Emperor and Mr. Rassam, it is not for me to say, but it was no new matter, for it had been in contemplation as long ago as December 1863, eight months before Mr. Rassam's first arrival at Massowah with the Queen's letter, that Mr. Flad should "go to England with letters to procure machines, and one or two gunpowder makers," as is stated in Mr. Stern's letter of April 1865, published in the Appendix to my work (p. 344).

As to Mr. Rassam's statement in his letter to Mr. Badger, published in the "Times," that "His Majesty sent me (Rassam) the letter to read, and said he would consult me before he answered it. I was never consulted on the subject; but thenceforward political combinations began to show themselves." I think I have shown to your Lordship's satisfaction that the time for consultation had not arrived, and, what is of far more importance, that no "political combinations" had yet "began to show themselves."

I have now to relate what took place in the interval between the departure on April 9th of Mr. Rassam's harbinger of good tidings, unhappily not realized, and the day in the same week ("this week") when that gentleman was to go and see the King, consult about the answer to be given to myself, and to "leave the Court."

In page 117 of the Blue Book is given a letter from the King dated the 3d of Miazia (April 10th), in answer apparently to one written by Mr. Rassam, which is not given, wherein His Majesty says, "Very well, as you say, Lij Abitow shall take them (whom? or what?) by the lower road, and your baggage will cross to any spot which you may choose. I have directed Agafari Goolam and the party of Aito Kasa to convey it for you."

Mr. Rassam's report of what occurred between the 10th and 13th of April is not given in the Blue Book; but it is well known that he sent the released captives away from Korata without letting them take leave of the King, and that they were arrested and brought back to Zagye in chains. I do not think of discussing what led to this step, I speak simply of the fact, which is notorious. Indeed Mr. Rassam himself adds the following note at the foot of the King's letter of April 10th:—"After the receipt of this letter Dr. Blanc, Mr. Prideaux, and myself repaired to Zagay, according to appointment, on the 13th April, when we were all arrested on the pretence that we did not take the released prisoners with us."

These then are the "political combinations" which now first "began to show themselves;" and as on April 13th Mr. Rassam and his party were arrested immediately on their arrival at Zagye before they reached the King's presence, there was evidently no thought of consulting about me then.

The released captives, who had so fatally been sent away from Korata, having been brought back to Zagye, where Mr. Rassam and his companions had likewise been put in chains, the whole party were brought before the King on the morning of April 16th (misprinted the "10th" in page 38 of the Blue Book), when Mr. Rassam was questioned respecting the unauthorized departure of the liberated captives. The conversation, as reported by Mr. Flad to the Earl of Clarendon in his Memorandum of July 10th, 1866, ended in the King's saying to Mr. Rassam, "Now you see for your sake (that is to say 'on your account,' Mr. Flad's English not being always quite correct), they are again in chains. From the day you said you wished to send them by another road I got suspicious, and thought that you wished to do so in order that you may say in your country you have released them by your prudence or by your power. Who are you? Are you a king? Are you not only (anything) but the servant of the Queen of England?"

Mr. Flad then relates (Blue Book, p. 39,) how the King subsequently forgave Mr. Rassam, but on condition that he made satisfaction; saying, "I require it from you, Mr. Rassam, because you are my *balderabá*, given to me by the Queen of England. She says in her letter everything I wish Mr. Rassam will do for you." On this passage in the Blue Book there is this strange note,—"There was one sentence in Her Majesty's letter which was just contrary to its meaning translated." What this may signify I will not pretend even to guess; but it evidently alludes to matters altogether removed from the sphere of my insignificant mission.

The cause of the disgrace into which Mr. Rassam fell is manifest, however, beyond all question. Consul Cameron placed the whole matter in a nutshell when he wrote to Mr. Danby Seymour, M.P., in his letter printed in page 55 of the Blue Book, "Mr. Rassam, after having got a wiggling in public for his having wished to get us out of the country, is again in favour."

On the morning of April 17th the chains were taken off from the released captives, and they were all, together with Mr. Rassam and his party, admitted to an audience of His Majesty. What took place on the occasion is related by Mr. Flad (Blue Book, p. 39),

and it is so important as regards myself that I am called on to extract the whole of this portion of the narrative. "As soon as we (the prisoners) had approached near His Majesty and received his salutation, we fell down to the ground, asking His Majesty to forgive and pardon us. We were ordered to get up, and come nearer. We had the honour to take a seat on a carpet. The King brought forth the petition of the relations of the English prisoners, which had been sent from Massowah by Dr. Beke. Captain Cameron was asked to read it. After that the King said, 'It is the devil who made me angry with you, and who tempted me to destroy the friendly feelings existing, since the late Mr. Plowden, between myself and England. From my childhood I like the Europeans, especially the English, and God knows that from morning to evening I had no other desire than to get in alliance with the English nation. It is true that, by the power of God, I will fight the Turks; but there never arose a thought in my mind to fight with the English. What I wish is, that they shall love me and be my friends. Mr. Stern,' said he, 'you are quite innocent; it is not you who abused me; it is that Copt, who calls himself a monk and a bishop. He made me angry with you, and he abused me. And Mr. Flad, God knows I never had any bad feelings against him. He never committed anything that could make me angry with him. And Mr. Rassam, you are the best man I ever saw in my life, and you did nothing which could make me angry with you. The other day, it is true, my suspicion arose, but it was the devil; and now we will make peace, forgetting everything past, and by actions of love we will renew our friendship. Now I pray you all forgive me.' The King immediately fell down to the ground before us. We asked that His Majesty might arise and forgive us, but he refused; so we said, according to the custom of the country, 'For God's sake we forgive you.' And immediately we knecled down before him, begging him to forgive us; on which he answered, 'For God's sake I forgive you.' After this ceremony we had to sit down. Then the King said that each of us should write a letter to his relations, and give them the news that His Majesty, by the power of God, and for the friendship's sake of the Queen of England, had pardoned and released us, and that we hope to see and meet them soon. After this we were dismissed."

From what is thus stated to have occurred at this remarkable interview it would really seem as if the petition from the relatives of the captives of which I was the bearer was the immediate cause of the King's thorough reconciliation with the latter, instead of being, as Mr. Rassam pretends, the beginning of "political combinations." Be this, however, as it may, a result of this reconciliation—subject only to the "satisfaction" demanded under the alleged pledge given in Her Majesty's letter of which Mr. Rassam was the bearer—was that the King wrote on the same day the letter to the "Families of the European Prisoners" contained in page 34 of the Blue Book, in which His Majesty thus expresses himself:—"The petition which you have sent me has reached me. I have felt the grief which has distressed you. For the sake of my friend Victoria, the Queen of England, I have released the prisoners at Magdala, and delivered them into the hands of Mr. Hormuzd Rassam. May this news give you gladness." At the same time he wrote to me the letter which is published in pages 395 and 396 of my work "The British Captives in Abyssinia," giving me permission to come to him, and adding, "At what time suits you, come by Matamma."

Meanwhile, however, my wife and I had left Massowah for Halai, where we were arrested by some of the "rebels" on which I immediately despatched my trusty messenger, Gebra Musyc, with a letter to the King, informing him of it, which letter reached His Majesty's hands on May 26th. This occurrence is reported by Mr. Rassam in his letter to the Earl of Clarendon, dated Zagyc, May 27th (Blue Book, p. 54) in the following terms:—"Yesterday a letter arrived from Dr. Beke, in which he informed the Emperor that after he had gone up to Hallai, in Abyssinia, to await a reply to his letter, which he had sent up to His Majesty about three months ago, the rebels of Tigre had placed a restriction upon his movements. Dr. Beke, therefore, begs the Emperor to send and have him released, in order that he may be enabled to prosecute his intended journey to the interior of Abyssinia with the presents he had brought for him from England."

"His Majesty sent me a message immediately after the receipt of the above communication to say that he would write to the Chiefs of Hallai and the adjacent districts to have Dr. Beke sent back to Massowah in safety, in order that he might come up to him *via* Kassala and Matamma, and if any accident should befall him he would hold them responsible. 'If any serious accident happen to him,' said he, 'I will show you the severe punishment I shall inflict upon those who injure him. Did I not on a former

'occasion,' he added, 'kill a number of my relatives and their followers to revenge the blood of an Englishman? Why should I now, then, allow any of my subjects to hurt or molest another?'

Thus it appears that even up to this late date, May 27th, 1866, there was no thought of complaining of my mission as having been in the remotest degree the cause of the Emperor's ill-will towards Mr. Rassam. On the contrary, it might fairly be argued that my coming was a source of gratification to that monarch, whether out of regard for me, or simply in the hope of enclosing another fish in his net, I will not decide. One thing, however, is quite certain. On more than one occasion I afforded His Majesty an opportunity of expressing his great love for the English nation, myself of course included, whilst in no single instance did I lead him to make use of an unkind expression towards us.

But I need not trouble your Lordship any further. Sufficient, and more than sufficient, will have been said to establish the fact that my mission had nothing whatever to do with Mr. Rassam's disgrace, or the detention of the captives after they had been once liberated; and that, consequently, the imputations against me made by that gentleman and his supporters, Mr. Layard and Mr. Badger, are unfounded and calumnious.

As to Mr. Rassam's further insinuation that my "abrupt departure had put him and his party into their fix," it would be too absurd to require notice were it not for its wickedness. Mr. Rassam got himself into his "fix" on April 13th. I did not leave Massowah in the "Victoria" steamer till May 21th, and my departure was not yet known at the Emperor's Court on May 27th, when, according to Mr. Rassam's own showing, I was believed to be a prisoner at Halai!

I will not think of questioning the right of Mr. Rassam or any one else to entertain, or even to express, an opinion as to whether or not my mission was necessary or expedient. At the time when I was requested to undertake it by the relatives of the unfortunate captives it was considered not merely expedient but highly necessary, on account of the great delay on Mr. Rassam's part, into the causes of which it is useless now to inquire. And on a review of all that has occurred, I retain my opinion that had I been allowed to undertake the liberation of the captives according to my own plan I should have succeeded, though doubtless under the condition of the temporary detention of my wife and myself, for which we were both fully prepared.

Before concluding I would beg leave to say a few words on a subject of less importance, but still requiring notice. I am utterly at a loss to understand Mr. Rassam's object in placing on record in his letter to Colonel Merewether what my messenger, Gebra Musye, is alleged to have reported he had heard said by the Captain of an English steamer, who is sufficiently identified by that description, especially as Mr. Rassam at the same time says the man was "half-cracked." Were I to repeat all that Gebra Musye and others told me about Mr. Rassam's proceedings at Massowah I should have enough to do.

But in justice to Gebra Musye, not less than to myself, I am bound to state that he was in the service of the late Mr. Consul Plowden from the time of his first entering into Abyssinia in 1843 (when I met the two together) until that officer's death in 1860, having been employed by him as his confidential messenger, and having in his time performed some extraordinary feats. He was afterwards (I believe) for some time in the service of Consul Cameron. For myself, I have to speak of Gebra Musye only in terms of praise for the manner in which he conveyed my letters, first to Dedjicitj Tekla Georgis, the Emperor Theodore's Lieutenant in Tigre, and afterwards to the Emperor himself. So secretly and ingeniously did he perform my errands that his departure was not known till he was out of reach of the "rebels," whose marauding parties, spread all over the country, would otherwise have stopped him, and he managed so to throw dust in the eyes of the people of Halai that I was reported at Massowah to be in communication with the rebels instead of with the royalists, which report was transmitted to Aden by M. Munzinger, the French Vice-Consul in charge of the British Consulate, who also thought fit to question me on the subject.

As regards the "false rumours" that Mr. Rassam "had been sent on false pretences by the British Government," which that gentleman says came from Massowah, they are well known to have originated with an individual who is (or was in my time) an intimate friend of M. Munzinger. This person has been properly denounced by some of the captives in their letters. There can be no doubt of his being a "mischief-maker," as Mr. Rassam alleges, and as I know to my cost; but he is certainly anything but a "fool."

Trusting that in the event of any further correspondence respecting Abyssinia being laid before Parliament your Lordship will allow the present letter to be included,

I have, &c.,

CHARLES BEKE.

No. 58.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 21st, 1867.

State what amount of transport you have, and what amount you require, for cavalry, infantry, and other purposes. What tonnage have you, exclusive of the new transports? How much shall we send? Can you manage without any mules from this side? What number shall we send, if any? Have you the means of transporting them from Suez?

No. 59.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State
for War.

Sir,

India Office, 22d August 1867.

I am desired by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will state to Sir John Pakington that Sir Stafford Northcote has been informed by Lord Stanley that Her Majesty's Government have resolved to take proceedings for enforcing the demand which Her Majesty has felt it necessary to make on King Theodorus of Abyssinia for the release of the British subjects whom he detains in his dominions, and that they propose to leave all arrangements therewith connected to be carried out by Her Majesty's Indian authorities, the cost of the expedition to be defrayed by the British Treasury. I am to state that Sir Stafford Northcote is of opinion that it will be desirable to provide the expeditionary force which it is in contemplation to despatch to Abyssinia with two batteries of mountain guns. The Director of Stores (for this Office) will make a requisition to the War Office accordingly.

2. Sir Stafford Northcote considers that the batteries should consist of six guns (seven-pounders) each.

3. They should be prepared for mule service, with carriages and pack saddles complete, and 500 rounds of ammunition should be provided for each gun.

4. The Inspector of Stores of this Department, who is an Officer of Indian experience, will be directed to place himself in communication with the Principal Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich in regard to the equipment of these batteries.

J. P. THOM,

Assistant, Military Department.

No. 60.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 22d August 1867.

With reference to your letters of the 16th and 17th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that directions were sent by the mail of the 19th instant to Commodore Heath, the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's ships at Bombay, to place himself in communication with his Excellency the Governor, and with the Military authorities of that place, and to afford them his advice and assistance, in so far as he can do so, as to the preparation of the proposed expedition to the coast of Abyssinia. Nos. 40
44.

The Commodore was also informed that it is *not* intended that Her Majesty's troop ships "Jumna," "Euphrates," and "Malabar" should be diverted from their own special service of carrying the reliefs to Suez.

Orders have also been forwarded for the "Spiteful" and "Dryad" sloops to proceed from Rio de Janeiro to Bombay, and for two ships to be detached from the squadron in China, and sent to Bombay.

I am, &c.,

W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 61.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, August 22d, 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will state to the Lords of the Admiralty, that Sir S. Northcote has been informed by Lord Stanley that Her Majesty's Government have resolved to take proceedings for enforcing the demand which Her Majesty has felt it necessary to make on King Theodorus of Abyssinia, for the release of the British subjects whom he detains in his dominions, and that they propose to leave all arrangements therewith connected to be carried out by Her Majesty's Indian authorities, the cost of the expedition being defrayed by the British Treasury.

2. I am to state that Sir Stafford Northcote is anxious that provision should be made without delay for steam transport for the service of the contemplated expedition from Bombay to Abyssinia.

3. Sir S. Northcote is in communication by telegraph with the Government of Bombay as to the amount of transport that will be required for the force, and supplies that must be despatched, and will communicate further with the Lords of the Admiralty when he receives a reply to his questions. In the meantime, he thinks it is certain that not less than 20,000 tons will be necessary; and, as the shipping should be despatched to Bombay without any loss of time, he requests that the Lords of the Admiralty will take such steps as they think best to procure this quantity, and, in addition, three vessels as hospital ships to be sent direct to Aden.

I have, &c.,

J. P. THOM,

Assistant, Military Department.

No. 62.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 22d, 1867.

Do you want a field telegraph apparatus for Abyssinia? Excepting bamboo poles, it can be sent from hence.

No. 63.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 22d, 1867.

It will doubtless be well known to His Majesty the Sultan that certain of Her Majesty's officers and other Europeans have for some time past been detained in captivity, contrary to justice and the law of nations, by King Theodore of Abyssinia.

Her Majesty's Government have exhausted all peaceful efforts to procure the release of the captives, and they have now resolved to resort to force. In order, however, to reach Abyssinia, Her Majesty's Government are led to believe that it will be necessary for their troops to pass through Ottoman territory, and, if so, they do not doubt that every facility will be afforded to them by the Sultan and the Viceroy of Egypt, who will readily understand that the Queen has no designs of conquest in that district, and that the only object of a military expedition is to effect the release of the prisoners, and to punish the tyrant who detains them in captivity.

You will make a communication in this sense to Fuad Pasha.

I am, &c.,

STANLEY.

No. 64.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 22d, 1867.

With reference to my Despatch, of this day's date, relative to the expedition which Her Majesty's Government are about to send to Abyssinia, I have to state

to you that it would be of great importance that they should be able to establish a rapid communication between Suez and Bombay, and they have been informed that this may be done, if permission be given by the Turkish Government to allow messages to pass along the Syrian coast line, *via* Bagdad.

You will apply to the Porte for this permission, and you will use your utmost exertions to overcome any difficulties that may be interposed by Turkish Officers.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 65.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

Sir, Foreign Office, August 22nd, 1867.

The Government of Bombay have sent Officers to Arabia, with a view to procure beasts of burden for the use of Her Majesty's army in the East, and I have to desire that you will request the Porte to instruct the Turkish Authorities in Arabia to give their utmost assistance to the Officers in question.

I may add that it is of great importance that this assistance should at once be rendered, as the animals are required for the expedition to Abyssinia, in order to effect the release of the prisoners detained in captivity by King Theodore.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 66.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Ambassador in Persia.

Sir, Foreign Office, August 22d, 1867.

The Government of Bombay have sent Officers to Bushire and Bussorah, with a view to procure beasts of burden for the use of Her Majesty's Army in the East, and I have to desire that you will request the Persian Government to instruct the authorities at Bushire to give their utmost assistance to the Officers in question.

I may add, for your own information, that it is of great importance that this assistance should at once be rendered, as the animals are required for an expedition to Abyssinia, in order to effect the release of the prisoners detained in captivity by King Theodore.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 67.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, August 23d, 1867.

With reference to your letter of yesterday's date requesting that immediate steps may be taken for providing shipping to the extent of 20,000 tons, for the contemplated expedition to be despatched from Bombay to Abyssinia, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to Sir Stafford Northcote that instructions were issued yesterday to take up transports to this extent without a moment's loss of time; but my Lords wish to call Sir Stafford Northcote's particular attention to the accompanying report from the Director of Transport Services, by which it will be seen that, if the expedition is to comprise the force of 12,000 men (combatants), the tonnage required for their conveyance, and that of the horses, mules, &c., will not fall short of 132,000 tons in all (if it be necessary to despatch the whole force at once from Bombay), and of this amount there is reason to suppose that not above 15,000 tons of steam transports will be procurable at Bombay.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

Enclosure in No. 67.

Memorandum by the Director of Transport Services.

The following arrangements are proposed with reference to the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia.

It is understood that the force will comprise—

Infantry	-	consisting of 3 European and 8 Native regiments.
Artillery	-	4 field batteries.
Cavalry	-	Europeans 200; Natives 1,200; horses 1,400.
Mountain Train	-	200
Engineers	-	200
Mules	-	10,000
Camels	-	5,000

being a total of 12,000 men (combatants), 1,400 horses, 10,000 mules with 2,000 muleteers, 5,000 camels with 7,500 drivers.

Provisions, medical comforts, and forage for the above for three months.

Tonnage required to convey the expedition.

	Tons.
12,000 men, at 2½ tons per man	30,000
1,400 horses, at 6 tons per horse	8,000
10,000 mules with 2,000 muleteers, at 4½ tons per mule with muleteer	45,000
5,000 camels with 7,500 drivers, at 8½ tons per camel with driver	41,250
Total tonnage required for men and animals	124,650
In round numbers, say	125,000
supposing that the whole expedition is afloat at one time.	
Also three hospital ships of 2,000 tons each, if procurable	6,000
Total tonnage	131,000

Coal being procurable within easy distance at Aden and Suez, it does not seem necessary to engage tonnage for coal to accompany the expedition, as, on arrival at Aden as a rendezvous from Bombay, the fleet should take in enough to ensure easily their reaching Massowah and returning to Aden, but, as they will cross from Bombay with a leading wind, the ships will in all probability reach Massowah with a good supply still in their bunkers.

It should also be considered whether additional tonnage may not be required for the collection and conveyance of forage.

The three hospital ships to be engaged and fitted in this country and completely stored and equipped for the special service, and when ready sent to Aden direct to meet the expedition. If the ships leave this country by the 15th September, they may possibly reach Bombay by the 1st December next.

Coal Supplies.

If 20,000 tons of steam shipping can be obtained in this country, they will require to fill up at the Cape Verds, the Cape of Good Hope, some of them probably at the Mauritius, and some may require a supply at Ascension or St. Helena; it is therefore proposed to ensure, as far as practicable, there being at the following ports—

	Tons.
Cape Verds	20,000
St. Helena	4,000
Ascension	4,000
Simon's Bay	35,000
Mauritius	10,000
	73,000

The ships should take deck cargoes on leaving England and the Cape.

It will be necessary to be informed by the Indian Government and the Peninsular and Oriental Company, of the quantity of coal they have at Bombay, and by the latter the quantity they have at Aden, with a request that they will immediately supplement that station with about 20,000 tons, to meet the anticipated requirements. The Peninsular and Oriental Company to make this arrangement so as not to compete with the purchases now about to be made for the Admiralty for other ports.

Water Supply.

Each ship to carry water and a distilling apparatus.

Thus, for the whole expedition, about

Tons.
132,000

tons of shipping will be required, of which it is understood that there is available in India—

Of the ships of the Peninsular and Oriental Company	6,000
Of the Indian Steamship Company	5,000
Of the Indian Navy or Bombay Marine	4,000
It is proposed by the Secretary of State for India to provide in this country immediately	20,000
	35,000
Leaving still to be provided	97,000

It is probable some sailing ships will be obtainable at Bombay; they would be better ships for Cavalry than steamers, and will carry a fair wind across. Ventilation is also better in sailing ships' holds, and the motion is less trying to horses.

With reference to the collection of mules along the Mediterranean shore, it will be desirable to engage transports specially for that service, say two steamers from 800 to 1,000 tons each, for a certain short period.

Orders should be sent by the next mail to Bombay, for the requisite tonnage to be taken up at that port and sent to Suez, for the number of mules and tons of stores it is intended to send by that route. The guns which are to go from this country can be sent out on freights in the ordinary way, either by the packet of the Peninsular and Oriental Company or the general trade, consigned to the transport officers in Egypt, who will see them on to Suez for shipment. I should suggest everything sent by this route being ordered to Aden, as the rendezvous. It will be necessary to send immediate instructions to the Superintendent of Marine at Bombay to prepare means of disembarking the Cavalry, horses, camels, and other animals, such as the construction of rafts or platforms over single cotton boats, which could be decked and towed across to Aden, one or more by each ship.

It is deserving of consideration whether it would not be better to engage the shipping and send them out unfitted for the conveyance of any particular part of the expedition, leaving it to the authorities at Bombay to fit and appropriate as thought best, all essentials, such as provisioning, fitting condensers, attending to the ventilation, to be done here. This would not apply to the hospital ships, which should be completely fitted, a transport officer and a medical officer of the Army being placed on board them. These ships might be used to bring back invalids *viâ* the Cape, and discharged in England.

W. R. MENDES.

No. 68.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 23d August 1867.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will lay before Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote the accompanying statement of the preliminary steps that have been taken by the Hydrographical Department for facilitating access to the coast and ports of Abyssinia.

Four temporary lights will be required for the navigation between Aden and Massowah, as well as small buoys and beacons, and on receipt of an intimation of the concurrence of Sir Stafford Northcote, orders will be given for providing these articles, and the requisite instructions be prepared for the guidance of the Surveying Officers as to placing them in position.

I am to add that the cost of the four lights will not exceed 300*l*.

I am, &c.,

W. G. ROMAINE.

Enclosure in No. 68.

Memorandum by the Hydrographer of the Admiralty.

A Statement of what has been done in the Hydrographic Department, and what it may be desirable to do.

1. The "Star" has been ordered by telegram from India to Aden for any surveying work that may be required.
2. I have sent surveying instruments, charts, extra sounding gear, &c., to Aden by Suez to meet her.
3. I have written unofficially to Commodore Heath at Bombay, pointing out what should be sent to Aden for the "Star" by one of the ships proceeding there.
4. I have also written to Admiral Kellett at Malta, pointing out what beacons, &c. should be prepared there to be sent to Aden by Suez. But no action would be taken in this matter unless the Board confirm it by telegram.
- Shall this be confirmed?
5. I recommend that four temporary lights for lighting up the Red Sea between Aden and Massowah be procured from Messrs. Wilkins, and sent to Aden by Suez.
- Shall this be done?
6. I have supplied all the Squadron in India, and those ships ordered from Brazil and China there, with charts and directions for the Red Sea, and I have sent twenty spare sets of each to Aden for casual supplies to transports or ships of war.
7. I will, if their Lordships approve, prepare a memorandum for the Commander of the "Star," pointing out the probable duties he will have to undertake, and the best mode of carrying them out, so soon as he shall receive his instructions to act.

GEORGE HENRY RICHARDS,
Hydrographer.

23d August 1867.

No. 69.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 23d August 1867.

No. 68.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, enclosing a statement of the preliminary steps taken by the Hydrographical Department of the Admiralty for facilitating access to the coast and ports of Abyssinia.

2. In reply, I am instructed to state that Sir Stafford Northcote concurs in the measures suggested in paras. 4 and 5 of Captain Richards's memorandum.

I have, &c.,

J. P. THOM,

Assistant, Military Department.

No. 70.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 23d August 1867.

No. 59.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 22d instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that immediate orders were given yesterday for the preparation and supply of two mountain batteries, with ammunition and stores, for service in Abyssinia.*

* Each battery to consist of six 7-pounder guns, with 500 rounds of ammunition per gun.

The Principal Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich has been directed to place himself in communication with the Inspector of Stores for the India Office, and to accept his directions on all points connected with the preparation and shipment of these batteries.

With reference to the remark that the cost of the stores is to be defrayed from the Imperial Treasury, I am to observe that, inasmuch as the whole conduct of the expedition is proposed to be placed under the India Government, it would appear to be the simplest course for this Department to supply any stores required by the India Government, upon indents from the India Store Department, on repayment, as is the case with ordinary stores for India, and for the India Government to include them, with other payments on account of this service, in a consolidated demand upon the Imperial Exchequer.

I have, &c.,

LONGFORD.

No. 71.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 23d, 1867.

At Aden 10,000 tons of steamer coal will be wanted, and at Bombay 10,000 tons.

No. 72.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 23d, 1867.

Instructions should be given by the Viceroy of Egypt to all his Officers at Massowah and elsewhere to render every assistance to our force on its disembarkation.

No. 73.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, Consul-General at Venice, and Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

My Lord (or Sir),

Foreign Office, August 24th, 1867.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious to ascertain, with as little delay as possible, whether a supply of Maria Theresa dollars can be obtained at or elsewhere, and to what extent and at what cost.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to state that any information which you can procure on the subject will be of importance.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MURRAY.

No. 74.

Telegram from the Principal Superintendent of Stores, Woolwich, 24th August 1867.

I can do nothing with the mountain equipment unless General Willoughby is appointed to draw up the proportion. I could make the saddle-trees in this Department, under Captain Fenn, provided I could have six qualified wheelers from the barracks, who have been instructed as tree makers. I can do nothing with the transport unless some one is sent from India Office.

No. 75.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 24th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, and to acquaint you, in reply to that communication, and with reference to the telegram from Woolwich dated this day, that Major-General Willoughby, the Inspector of Stores for this Office, will be in town on Monday next, the 26th instant, when he will be directed immediately to place himself in communication with the Principal Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich, and that, in the meantime, that Officer may consult with Colonel E. Wray, C.B., of the Royal Artillery, on any points connected with the preparation and equipment of the two mountain batteries for service in Abyssinia.

2. I am at the same time instructed to add that Sir Stafford Northcote sees no objection to the arrangement proposed by the War Department, for the adjustment of the account for any stores which may be supplied to this Office for service with the expedition.

I have, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant Military Secretary.

No. 70.
No. 74.

No. 76.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, 24th August 1867.

With reference to my letter of yesterday's date, in regard to the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Peninsular and Oriental Company, by which it appears that, upon receiving an immediate reply, the Company can place 10,000 to 15,000 tons of coal at the disposal of the Government at Bombay, and would at once endeavour to bring the supply up to 20,000 tons; and I am to request you will move the Secretary of State for India to inform them if he considers it advisable to accept this offer.

I am at the same time to inform you that their Lordships will take steps as regards the supplies for Aden without delay.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 67.

Enclosure in No. 76.

The Secretary of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, 122, Leadenhall Street, 24th August 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d instant, inquiring whether this Company would be enabled to supply the Government at Bombay with 20,000 tons of coal in November next; also what quantity of coal they could supply at Aden on the 1st December next.

In reply, I am instructed by the Directors to state that, upon receiving an immediate reply from your Department, they could undertake to supply 10,000 to 15,000 tons of coals at Bombay, and that they would at once endeavour, by securing cargoes on the way, to bring up the quantity to the full extent required.

The Company's present stock of coal at Aden, with cargoes engaged and on the way, will enable the Directors to place 10,000 tons at the disposal of the Government at that port by the 1st December next, and they have already commenced taking measures to increase that quantity to 20,000 tons.

The Directors think it right to mention that, although they will use every means in their power to obtain tonnage upon the most moderate terms, yet, owing to the rise in the freight market, the rates for the whole quantity required, both at Bombay and Aden, must of necessity be considerably in advance of those recently charged.

I have, &c.,
W. HOWELL.

No. 77.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 24th August 1867.

No. 76.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, forwarding copy of a letter from the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, from which it appears that that Company can place at the disposal of the Bombay Government from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of coal, and that they will endeavour to bring up the quantity to 20,000 tons.

2. I am instructed in reply to state, that Sir Stafford Northcote is of opinion that it would be desirable to accept of this offer.

I have, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 78.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 24th August 1867.

With reference to the decision at which Her Majesty's Government have arrived respecting the projected expedition for the release of the British captives in Abyssinia, namely, that in view of all the circumstances of the case, all the arrangements for the prosecution of military operations against King Theodorus shall be entrusted to Her Majesty's Indian authorities, but that the whole expense of the expedition is to be borne by the Imperial Exchequer, and that Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to propose to Parliament in the next Session to defray the expenses of the expedition, I am desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request that you will observe to the Secretary of State for India in Council, that it would be satisfactory to their Lordships to be informed, as regards the expenses of the expedition, whether the ordinary means at the command of the Indian Government for regulating and checking the expenses of such operations will be available with reference to the projected expedition; and further, whether Sir Stafford Northcote, having regard to the peculiar circumstances of this expedition, is of opinion that any additional precautions would be necessary or advisable in order to check the expenditure.

I am, &c.,
G. A. HAMILTON.

No. 79.

The Acting Chief Clerk, Transport Office, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 24th August 1867.

I request that you will be pleased to inform me whether it is desired that any passengers or stores shall be sent out in the steam transports about to be engaged for the service of the expedition to Abyssinia, and, if so, that you will be pleased to cause the particulars (and tonnage of the stores) to be communicated to this Department as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,
W. L. ANDERSON,
for Director of Transports.

No. 80.

Telegram from the Governor General to the Secretary of State for India,
August 24th, 1867.

In reply to
No. 30.

The first advances requisite for the Abyssinian expedition will be one million sterling, which our cash balances are not sufficiently strong to meet. The balances will, in the course of the next three months, fall to eight millions. We propose, therefore, that you should diminish your drafts upon us during the next three months, so as to enable us to make these advances without inconvenience. We request attention to our Despatch pointing out the necessity of the Railway Company raising a further sum of 2,500,000/.

No. 81.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India.

August 25th, 1867.

Send as many additional mules as can be purchased and delivered at Suez before the end of November; probably a good many from Spain and Genoa. Tell me if any can be procured, and when I should have the transports for them at Suez.

No. 82.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, August 26th, 1867.

In furtherance of arrangements connected with the Abyssinian expedition I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a copy of a telegram received this day from the Government of Bombay, and to request that arrangements may be made for procuring as many mules as can be ready at Suez before the end of November, not exceeding 7,000, with a sufficient number of attendants to take care of them during their transit across Egypt, and if necessary on board ship in the Red Sea.

No. 81.

2. If the animals can be delivered on shore at Alexandria, arrangements will be made from this Office for conveying them to Suez.

3. Sir Stafford Northcote would request to be informed, as early as possible, of the probable date on which any considerable number of mules will be ready at Alexandria, and the dates on which successive batches of these animals may be expected at the same place, in order that the necessary arrangements for their transport from thence may be made by the Government of Bombay.

I have, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 83.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, August 26th, 1867.

With reference to former correspondence connected with the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of Lord Stanley, a copy of a telegram received yesterday from the Government of Bombay.

No. 72.

"Instructions should be given by the Viceroy of Egypt to all his officers at Massowah and elsewhere, to render every assistance to our force on its disembarkation."

I have, &c.,
J. C. MELVILL.

No. 84.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 26th August 1867.

I am desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying communication from Mr. Beke, and its enclosure, dated 14th instant, offering suggestions with reference to the proposed military expedition for the release of the British captives in Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,

G. A. HAMILTON.

No. 85.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services, Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 27th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that tonnage will be required to the extent of about three thousand tons, for stores to be shipped on the steam transports about to be engaged for the service of the expedition to Abyssinia, and that the Director-General of Stores of this Office has been requested to place himself in communication with you upon the subject.

2. I am instructed to add, that it is not at present known whether or not any passages will be required on board these vessels.

I have, &c.,

J. P. THOM,

Assistant, Military Department.

No. 86.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

My Lord,

Treasury Chambers, 27th August 1867.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, having had before them your Lordship's letters, dated 13th and 20th instant respectively, on the subject of the proposed expedition for the release of the British captives in Abyssinia, their Lordships desire me to state, in reply, and for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council :—

1. As regards the views of this Board with respect to the course to be pursued by the Secretary of State for India in Council, in matters of financial expenditure connected with the contemplated expedition, my Lords are of opinion, having regard to the circumstances, that all the arrangements for the prosecution of military operations, in respect of the expedition, are entrusted to Her Majesty's Indian Authorities, that it will be desirable that all the necessary pecuniary advances should be made by the Government of India, and the amount so advanced notified to this Board from time to time; and my Lords will take the necessary steps to have the amounts so notified transferred to the account of the Secretary of State for India, at the Bank of England. It will, of course, be necessary that the accounts and vouchers should be submitted to this Board in due time.

2. With regard to the stores which it will be necessary to supply from this country, my Lords are of opinion that the Secretary of State for India in Council, being entrusted with the arrangements for the prosecution of the expedition, should, in communication with his Officers, decide upon the stores or other matters which it may be desirable to obtain, either from the War Office or the Admiralty, and that they should be furnished, on requisition, from the Indian Department.

3. As regards the necessary supply of money for the expedition, my Lords suggest that the most convenient course will be for the Austrian specie dollars, or whatever other coins may be current in Abyssinia, to be procured by the Indian Department.

My Lords will direct the Master of the Mint to place himself in immediate communication with the Secretary of State, in order to afford any assistance which may be required.

I am, &c.,

GEO. A. HAMILTON.

No. 87.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

Gentlemen,

India Office, 27th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will make arrangements for the early purchase, at Vienna or Trieste, of as large a number of Maria Theresa dollars as you may be able to obtain, and for their shipment by not less than 20,000 at a time, on board the Austrian Lloyd's steamers at Trieste, consigned to Captain Johnson, Agent to the Indian Government at Alexandria, to whom the bill of lading should be sent.

I have, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 88.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Agent of the Indian Government at Alexandria.

Sir,

India Office, 27th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to inform you that the Bank of England has been requested to ship, from Trieste to your consignment at Alexandria, as many Maria Theresa dollars as they may be able to obtain; and I have to request that you will receive the consignments as they arrive, and forward them to the Political Resident at Aden with as little delay as possible. No. 87.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 89.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir,

India Office, 27th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will receive and take charge of any consignments of Austrian dollars which may be forwarded to you from Egypt, and that you will attend to the instructions of the Government of Bombay in regard to their disposal.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 90.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 27th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will move the Secretary of State for War to give directions that the under-mentioned equipment may be prepared, with as little delay as possible, for service with the expedition to Abyssinia, viz. :—

- 400 Maltese carts.
- 5,000 pack saddles for mules.
- 4,500 sets of harness (lead) for mules.
- 3,000 " " (wheel) "

2. These articles should be packed suitably for stowage on board ship.

3. Major-General Willoughby, Inspector of Stores for this Office, will be instructed to proceed to Woolwich for the purpose of arranging the details in communication with Captain Gordon.

4. I am instructed to add, that Sir Stafford Northcote will feel obliged by being informed at what time these articles, or any portion of them, may be expected to be ready for shipment.

I have, &c.,
J. PATTISON THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 91.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 27th, 1867.

We shall shortly send to Bombay ten steam transports, aggregate 21,000 tons; they may be expected there in all November. Three other steam ships, fitted up as hospitals, will be sent to Aden, where they may be expected to arrive early in December.

No. 92.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 27th, 1867.

If a mountain battery of light rifled guns can be supplied, the Commander-in-Chief wishes to have it, with 500 rounds of ammunition per gun; a supply of rockets with the necessary carriage, and a detachment of men instructed in their use; 4,000 Snider breech-loading rifles, with ammunition, for the British Infantry on the expedition; and 1,000 Snider breech-loading carbines, with ammunition; the whole to be sent to Colonel Ross at Suez, pending any other arrangement for agency.

No. 93.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 27th, 1867.

We recommend Staveley for the 1st, and Malcolm for the 2d Division; Brigadiers from among the senior Officers of the regiments employed. Merewether I should like to command the Cavalry Brigade, but he is not full Colonel till April, and the Lieutenant-Colonel of the 3d Cavalry, which is going, is a few months his senior. Can you give him rank as Brevet-Colonel, or have him made Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, for his service at Aden? It seems unfair to leave him out, having been employed hitherto

No. 94.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 27th, 1867.

There are five good steamers of our own, and we can charter about 20 more by degrees,—perhaps more, if we can get any of the Messageries and Egyptians,—besides four ships of the Royal Navy. . . . * If we can have the new troop ships during all December, there will be no difficulty in getting good sailing transports which can be towed. At least 90,000 tons measurement will be required, excluding tonnage for landing the transport animals at the rate of 6,000 tons for every thousand mules, 8,000 tons for every thousand bullocks, and 15,000 for every thousand camels. I will have the separate tonnage for Infantry and Cavalry calculated, if you wish it. We should be glad to have more large steamers, of course.

No. 95.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 27th, 1867.

Sir Robert Napier wishes Mr. Krapf, if not too old, and Mr. Mansfield Parkyn, and any missionary who understands the Tigré, Amhara, or Galla dialect, to be sent out, being, however, bound, during his engagement, to refrain from all missionary efforts.

* Sentence undecipherable.

No. 96.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

War Office, August 27, 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Stanley, that the Secretary of State for India in Council, in furtherance of the arrangements connected with the Abyssinian expedition, has requested that the necessary steps may be at once taken for procuring as many mules as can be obtained and landed in Egypt by the beginning of November. No. 82.

I am accordingly to request that you will move Lord Stanley to instruct the Consuls at Cadiz, Malaga, Alicante, Genoa, Turin, Tripoli, Constantinople, and Smyrna, by telegraph if possible, to look out for as many mules as can be obtained. I am to state that officers will be at once sent out to those places to select the mules.

A copy of a memorandum on this subject is inclosed, from which Lord Stanley will learn the arrangements proposed for payment so far as Alicante, Genoa, Tripoli, Constantinople, and Smyrna, are concerned. As regards mules from Cadiz and Malaga, they will be purchased by officers from Gibraltar, and removed thither. Enclosure in No. 100

I am to add that with respect to the remuneration of the Consuls for this service, Sir John Pakington will be prepared to concur in recommending to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury any rate which Lord Stanley may deem advisable under the circumstances.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 97.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, War Office, August 27, 1867.

With reference to my letter of this day's date, with its inclosed Memorandum, detailing the steps which it is proposed to take for providing the number of mules required for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will move Lord Stanley, should he see no objection, to take the necessary steps for obtaining the permission of the Viceroy of Egypt to the establishment of a depôt at Alexandria for the reception of the mules on their disembarkation, and of a second depôt at Suez for their concentration prior to their re-embarkation at the latter port for their destination on the Red Sea. No. 96.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 98.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, War Office, August 28, 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 27th instant, on the subject of the measures which are being taken for obtaining a supply of mules for the proposed expedition into Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will move Lord Stanley to cause the necessary instructions to be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ministers in Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Greece, with the view to their soliciting the Governments to which they are severally accredited to afford such facilities to the British officers and others employed upon this service as will assist them in accomplishing the object of their mission. No. 96.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 99.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

War Office, August 28, 1867.

I am directed by Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and, with reference to the suggestions contained in it, that copies of the "Pamphlet on Routes in Abyssinia" may be of great use to the India Office at this moment, I am to state, for Lord Stanley's information, that copies have been already forwarded to that office.

I have, &c.,

DOUGLAS GALTON.

No. 100.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, August 28, 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Thom's letter of the 26th instant, enclosing the copy of a telegram from the Governor of Bombay, and stating that, in furtherance of the arrangements connected with the Abyssinian expedition, the Secretary of State for India in Council is desirous that steps should be taken for procuring as many mules as can be ready at Suez before the end of November next, not exceeding 7,000, with a sufficient number of attendants to take care of them during their transit across Egypt, and if necessary on board ship in the Red Sea.

In reply, I am to transmit to you, for the information of Sir Stafford Northcote, the enclosed copy of a memorandum upon the subject, and to state that the necessary preliminary steps have been taken by this Department for carrying out the scheme therein detailed, so far as it provides for the purchase of as many mules as can be obtained within the number specified, their conveyance to Alexandria, and their delivery on shore at that place by the beginning of November.

Sir John Pakington would, however, be glad to be informed whether the Indian Government will be prepared to take over the charge of the mules when landed at Alexandria. As regards the attendants, I am to state that the officers purchasing the mules have been instructed, in hiring such attendants as may be necessary, to make it a condition that they shall accompany the mules to Alexandria, and, if necessary, to Massowah, with a free passage back. Sir John Pakington assumes that these instructions will meet Sir Stafford Northcote's views upon this point. I am further to observe that any arrangements should be such as will admit of the reception of the first cargo by the end of September, but Sir John Pakington fears that it is unlikely that the number of mules required, viz., 7,000, will be obtained within the time specified. I am to add, that Sir John Pakington has requested Lord Stanley, should he see no objection, to take the necessary steps for obtaining the consent of the Viceroy of Egypt to the establishment of a depôt at Alexandria for the reception of the mules on their disembarkation, and the formation of a second depôt at Suez, where, it is understood, the mules will be concentrated prior to their embarkation for their destination on the Red Sea.

Care will be taken to communicate to you from time to time, for the information of Sir Stafford Northcote, the particulars which may reach this Department in consequence of the instructions which have been issued in this subject.

I have, &c.,

LONGFORD.

Enclosure in No. 100.

Memorandum.

The following scheme is proposed for obtaining 7,000 mules required for the Abyssinian expedition. The places suggested as the *foci* from which purchases should be made are as follows :—

Malaga.	Barcelona.	Beyrout.	Gibraltar.
Alicante.	Genoa.	Constantinople.	Malta.
Cadiz.	Tripoli.	Smyrna.	

The Consuls at these places, except Malta and Gibraltar, to be requested to look out at once for mules, and to assist in every way British Officers and others sent out to select and purchase.

Officers to be at once sent out, accompanied by veterinary surgeons, to examine and select the animals.

At Alicante and Smyrna, the Consuls will pay expenses, on the order of the Officer, by drawing bills on the Paymaster-General on account of the War Office.

The Officers proceeding to other stations will be accompanied by a Commissariat Officer, to undertake the payment of the mules, and the necessary expense for hiring stabling and obtaining food for the mules, to be paid as above, and also to hire such attendants for the mules as may be necessary. These attendants to be hired on the condition of accompanying the mules to Alexandria, and, if necessary, to Massowah, with free passage back.

In every case where the mule has a pack-saddle, such pack-saddle to be included in the purchase.

The Officers to receive the pay of their rank, and 3*l*. 3*s*. a day, which is to include remuneration and hotel expenses, in addition to their actual travelling expenses.

The Veterinary Surgeons to be paid 3*l*. 3*s*. a day, in lieu of pay, remuneration, and hotel expenses.

The General Officers commanding at Gibraltar and Malta to be directed to commence at once to purchase mules through the agency of the Commissary-General at the station.

The Admiralty to be informed of the arrangements, and requested to provide transport for conveying the mules from the above places to Alexandria.

A military Veterinary Surgeon to go out in each ship sent by the Admiralty to collect the mules, in order to receive them from the Officers and Consuls, who should see to their being properly foraged whilst on board, and to hand them over to the accredited Officers at Alexandria. It is understood that the Indian Government are prepared to accept the mules from us at Alexandria, and provide for their passage through Egypt.

A military Officer, accompanied by a Commissariat Officer, will be at once selected to proceed to Alexandria. He will be charged with the general direction of the service. Upon the arrival of the mules, he will see to their being landed, and maintained, and will transfer them at the proper time to the Officers of the Indian Government.

The Officers employed to purchase mules at

Alicante,
Genoa,

Tripoli,
Constantinople,

Smyrna,

and the General Officers commanding at Gibraltar and Malta, will send in reports to this Officer at Alexandria, both by telegraph and letter, and he will arrange for the movements of the steamers for picking up the mules, in accordance with the intelligence he receives.

The Commissariat Officer at Alexandria will draw upon the Treasury for all funds necessary for his purposes.

The Commissary-General-in-Chief will confer with the Quartermaster-General as to the Officer to be selected.

The Commissary-General-in-Chief will make arrangements for the provision of compressed forage, or other forage, to go out in the several ships for the use of the mules during the voyage. The first three ships will take a full cargo of compressed forage, to be landed at Alexandria for the use of the mules there, when landed.

No. 101.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, August 28, 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, and in reply, to state that Sir Stafford Northcote has informed the Government of Bombay, by telegraph, that arrangements will be made for the purchase of as many mules (not exceeding 7,000) as can be obtained before the end of November, and that the Government of Bombay must make arrangements to begin fetching them away from Suez in the beginning of October. Sir Stafford Northcote has also desired the Government of Bombay to send attendants to take charge of the mules from Suez.

No. 100.

2. Sir Stafford Northcote requests that you will move Sir John Pakington to take steps for organizing an establishment for the reception of the mules at Alexandria, for their conveyance across the isthmus, and for their accommodation and maintenance at Suez until they are fetched away. He will give instructions to the Principal Transport Officer of the Indian Government in Egypt (Captain Willoughby) to render every assistance in his power for landing the mules at Alexandria, and embarking them at Suez.

3. Sir Stafford Northcote will feel obliged to Sir John Pakington if he will inform him, as soon as convenient, of the scale of the establishments he would propose at Suez and at Alexandria, and of their probable expense.

4. I am to add, that Sir Stafford Northcote is making provision for a supply of pack saddles, to be sent to Alexandria. It is therefore a question whether any pack saddles should be purchased with the mules.

I have, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 102.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, August 28, 1867.

No. 90.

In reference to your Letter, dated yesterday, I am instructed by the Secretary of State for War to inform you that the stores asked for in it, for service in the expedition to Abyssinia, have been ordered to be supplied from Woolwich. A further communication will be made as to the date on which they may be expected to be ready.

I have, &c.,

LONGFORD.

No. 103.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich, August 28, 1867.

Can any portion of the Maltese carts, pack-saddles, and harness, ordered yesterday, be got ready for immediate despatch, in steam transports, round the Cape?

No. 104.

Telegram from the Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich to the Secretary of State for India, Woolwich, August 28, 1867.

I cannot reply till I have seen General Willoughby. When will the first steamer go?

No. 105.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich, August 28, 1867.

Nothing can go by the steamers that is not delivered by the end of next week.

No. 106.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, August 28, 1867.

In reply to
Nos. 94 and
81.

It is of importance not to interfere with the arrangements made for the troops leaving England, to relieve troops in India. Let us know if you wish to detain any which have been named for return from India. The mules will begin to arrive at Suez about the beginning of October. Prepare to fetch them away, and send persons to attend on them. The mules will be furnished with halters.

No. 107.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India, August 28, 1867.

I think that telegraphic communication might be established with Abyssinia, for, when I passed through Egypt, the Viceroy told me that his telegraph line would be opened to Souakin immediately. It is only about 280 miles thence to Massowah, and we could ourselves lay a telegraph in two or three months. Colonel Stanton might be desired to urge the immediate completion of the Egyptian line, with permission to complete it to Massowah, and he should be told to telegraph the result to me.

No. 108.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India, August 28, 1867.

The services of Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Lucas are immediately required at Bombay, if his health is restored.

No. 109.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, August 29, 1867.

In reply to Mr. Thom's letter of yesterday's date, on the subject of the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed printed paper, and I am to request that you will acquaint me whether the arrangements therein stated are those which Sir Stafford Northcote decided on at the conference held at the India Office yesterday. No. 101.

Sir John Pakington finds it impossible at present to furnish an estimate of the establishments proposed for Suez and Alexandria; but, in accordance with the understanding arrived at, he will cause the India Office to be informed on this point, when the arrangements shall have been more matured.

I am to request to be favoured with as early a reply as possible.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

Enclosure in No. 109.

Expedition to Abyssinia.

Arrangements for the provision of 7,000 mules to be landed at Alexandria, and delivered to the Agents of the Indian Government at Suez, by the middle of November 1867, and for the transit through Egypt of the stores connected with the Expedition. (a)

The general direction of the arrangements is placed under a superior Officer at Alexandria, who will make all arrangements for the landing and maintenance of the mules, and for delivering them over to the India Government. (b)

He will be assisted by two Commissariat Officers to make all necessary arrangements for foraging and maintaining the mules at the depôts; one will be stationed at a dépôt to be formed at Alexandria, and the other at a dépôt to be formed at Suez. Such subordinates of the Commissariat Staff Corps as may be necessary will be attached to each Commissariat Officer.

A military Store Officer will be sent to Alexandria to superintend the receipt and transit through Egypt of the stores * sent by way of Alexandria to be delivered to the Government of India at Suez, or to be issued in connexion with the mule traffic. (c) He will be assisted by such subordinates of the Military Store Staff Corps as may be necessary.

The General Officer commanding at Gibraltar will cause mules to be purchased in the vicinity of Gibraltar, Cadiz, and Malaga.

The General Officer commanding at Malta will cause mules to be purchased in the islands, and in the vicinity of Tunis or elsewhere.

A veterinary surgeon will be sent to each of these stations to examine and pass the mules purchased.

The following places are also selected as *foci* for the purchase of mules; they may be altered or added to, as circumstances appear to require:—

1. Alicante.
2. Valentia.
3. { Majorca.
- { Minorca.
4. Barcelona.
5. Smyrna.
6. Scanderoun.
7. { Tyre.
- { Sidon.
- { Beyrout.

An Officer of the Military Train or Artillery, to look out for and select mules, will proceed to each of these *foci*, he will be accompanied by a veterinary surgeon.

A Commissariat Officer will also proceed to each of these *foci*, who will draw bills on the Treasury (d) for paying for the mules, and for superintending the necessary subsidiary arrangements for foraging and keeping them till their embarkation, and hiring the necessary attendants. (d) I suppose the Treasury agree to this.

These Officers will be under the orders of the Officer at Alexandria, and will keep him informed of their proceedings.

No mules are to be purchased after the 31st October.

Instructions to the Officers are appended. They will be furnished with passports and circular letters of recommendation from the Foreign Office to the Consuls in the Mediterranean ports.

The Officers will receive 3*l.* 3*s.* a day to cover remuneration and hotel expenses, in addition to the pay of their rank; and each veterinary surgeon will receive 3*l.* 3*s.* a day, inclusive of pay.

Claims for travelling and other disbursements will be sent in on the usual forms.

Each Officer will receive an imprest of 50*l.* before leaving England.

Ships for removing the mules have been chartered by the Admiralty, and will be despatched to the several ports for embarking mules according to the orders of the Officer at Alexandria.

* In copy sent to War Office "the harness, pack-saddles, &c."

They will be provided with compressed forage for the mules on the voyage, and will take out a supply of head stalls (c) for the use of the mules on board. If, from unforeseen circumstances, there should not be forage on board, the Commissariat Officer at the port of embarkation will see to its being provided.

The ships are to be fitted with steam hoists for embarkation.

A veterinary surgeon will be on board each ship to receive the mules and look after them on the voyage, and hand them over to the officer in charge at Alexandria.

(c) They are to deposit the spare head stalls at Alexandria to serve in taking the mules to Suez.

No. 110.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, August 29, 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, regarding the provision of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, and the arrangements consequent thereon, and I am to state that Sir Stafford Northcote approves of the proposed arrangements, subject to the notes in red ink which he has made upon the margin.

I am, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 111.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

War Office, August 29, 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Stanley, that, in compliance with the demand of the Government of Bombay, it is proposed that a large number of mules, stores of harness, carts, pack-saddles, and horse gear shall be sent *via* Egypt for embarkation at Suez.

I am to request that you will move Lord Stanley to cause the Acting Consul-General in Egypt to be informed that the course proposed is that a superior officer shall be stationed at Alexandria to receive the mules on arrival, and regulate the service during their stay in Egypt.

On account of the uncertainty of the arrival of shipping at Suez to remove the mules, it will be necessary to establish a dépôt at Alexandria to receive them on arrival, and to hire storage for the deposit of the stores until they can be removed by railway.

A second dépôt will be established at Suez to receive the mules, &c., prior to their re-embarkation.

Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., is the officer selected to conduct this service, and he will shortly arrive at Alexandria, accompanied by officers sufficient to form small establishments for the reception of the mules and stores, and to provide for their maintenance during the time they may be detained in Egypt.

I am to request that you will move Lord Stanley to instruct the Acting Consul-General to assist Colonel Clark Kennedy in these arrangements, in the necessary communication with the Government of Egypt, and in any other manner in his power.

It is expected that this service will be concluded in December.

Sir John Pakington would be glad if Lord Stanley would cause a telegram to this effect to be sent to the Acting Consul-General in anticipation of the despatch.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 112.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Consuls in the Mediterranean.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

Her Majesty's Government require a quantity of mules, for the use of Her Majesty's Indian army, and officers will be sent from hence, by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War, to select and purchase them. Meanwhile, I am directed by Lord

Stanley to instruct you to make immediate inquiries in your neighbourhood as to the possibility of procuring these animals, so that, on the arrival at the place of your residence of the officers in question, who will be furnished with a letter of introduction to you, no time may be lost in effecting the purchase, which it is desirable to complete with as little delay as possible.

In the event of any difficulties being raised by the local authorities to the purchase or exportation of the mules, you will represent the case to Her Majesty's Minister at _____, who has been instructed to take the necessary steps thereupon.

I am, &c.,

J. MURRAY.

No. 113.

Letter of Introduction to Her Majesty's Consular Officers in Countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

This letter will be presented to you by _____, who has been ordered by the Secretary of State for War to proceed to the place of your residence for the purpose of purchasing mules for the use of Her Majesty's Indian army, and of forwarding them to Alexandria; and I am directed by Lord Stanley to instruct you to afford to this officer all the assistance in your power in furtherance of the objects of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 114.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

Colonel Clark Kennedy going to Alexandria to superintend landing and transport of mules purchased in Mediterranean. Assist him.

No. 115.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Florence and Madrid.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consuls in countries bordering on the Mediterranean, instructing them to render all the assistance in their power to officers who are about to be sent to purchase mules for the use of Her Majesty's Indian army. If any of Her Majesty's Consular officers in Italy (or Spain) should require your aid towards overcoming difficulties, you will of course afford it to them. No. 112.

I may add, for your own information, that the mules are specially required for service in the expedition which is about to be sent to Abyssinia, to effect the release of the prisoners detained in captivity by King Theodore.

I am, &c.,

E. HAMMOND
for Lord Stanley.

No. 116.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

With reference to Lord Stanley's Despatch of the 19th instant, instructing you to request the Egyptian Government to afford facilities to the expedition which Her Majesty's Government are compelled to send to Abyssinia, I am directed by Lord Stanley

to state to you, that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War has decided upon endeavouring to purchase 7,000 mules in countries bordering on the Mediterranean, and to forward them, *viâ* Alexandria and Suez, to Massowah.

Officers will be sent to those countries accordingly, and a competent staff will proceed to Alexandria under the command of Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., to superintend the landing and forwarding the animals, and the care of them while in Egypt. Considerable accommodation, however, will be required at Alexandria and Suez for the cargoes as they successively arrive, and I am to instruct you to take the necessary steps for obtaining permission from the Viceroy of Egypt for the establishment of such depôts as may be necessary at both places.

It is expected that this matter will be completed before the end of the year.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MURRAY.

No. 117.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

How far is the telegraph open towards Souakin? When will it be completed?

Ascertain whether the British Government may lay down line on their own account from Souakin to Massowah.

No. 118.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Consuls at Alicante and Smyrna.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

No. 113.

With reference to my letter of this day's date, introducing to you the officer charged by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War to purchase mules for the use of Her Majesty's Indian army, I am directed by Lord Stanley to state to you that it is the wish of the Secretary of State for War that you should pay any expenses which such officer may be authorized to incur in this service, and that you should reimburse yourself by drawing bills on Her Majesty's Paymaster-General, payable on account of the War Office.

You will in each case require from the officer an order for the payment to be made, for which he will be responsible.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 119.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

Nos. 96 to 98

I have laid before Lord Stanley your letters of the 27th and 28th instant, respecting the arrangements to be made for purchasing mules for service on the expedition to Abyssinia, and I am directed by his Lordship to transmit to you copies of letters which he has addressed to Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Officers at the places therein named, giving them instructions in accordance with Sir John Pakington's request.

I am to add that passports will be issued in favour of the officers who will be employed by the War Office on this service, on your stating their names and description.

With respect to your allusion to the remuneration of Consular officers, I am to state that Lord Stanley proposes to postpone the consideration of this question until he is made aware of the extent to which their services are made available.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 120.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, War Office, August 29, 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will move Lord Stanley to furnish him with 20 letters of introduction to Her Majesty's Consuls in the Mediterranean, together with 20 passports for the use of the officers employed in purchasing the mules.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 121.

Telegram from Major-General BAKER, Member of the Indian Council, to the Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich, August 29, 1867.

Our demand for mule harness will be reduced to 1,000 sets of leader harness and 800 sets of wheeler harness. Can these be ready for shipment by the end of next week?

No. 122.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, August 29, 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 27th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state that, on reconsideration of the probable requirements of the troops in Abyssinia, Sir Stafford Northcote wishes to restrict the requisition for mule harness to—

1,000 sets leader harness.

800 „ wheel „

2. If this quantity can be prepared for shipment before the end of next week, it can be sent to India in one or more of the steam ships taken up by the Admiralty for the purposes of the expedition.

I am, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 123.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, August 29, 1867.

I have laid before Lord Stanley your letter of the 26th instant, forwarding a request from the Governor of Bombay that instructions should be given by the Viceroy of Egypt to his officers at Massowah to render every assistance to the expedition about to be sent to Abyssinia, and I am directed by his Lordship to inform you that Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt was desired by the mail of the 19th instant to request that this might be done.

I enclose a copy of the instruction so sent, together with copies of the various letters which have been addressed to Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Officers in regard to matters connected with this expedition.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 51 to 54,
63 to 65, 73,
112, 115, and
116.

No. 124.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India

Sir, War Office, 29th August 1867.

With reference to the arrangements for the provision of 7,000 mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am desired by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request you will have the goodness to direct that an Officer may attend at Woolwich to draw up, in conjunction with the Principal Superintendent of Stores, a detail of the articles which should be sent from this country, and also of such as should be locally furnished by purchase or otherwise.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 125.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 29th August 1867.

I am desired by Secretary Sir John Pakington to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, detailed information showing when stores for Abyssinia will be ready, and the tonnage they will require.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

Enclosure in No. 125.

Memorandum.

Woolwich Stores.

Will be ready:—

At end of next week:

Carts	-	-	-	-	-	200
Saddles, with cases	-	-	-	-	-	300
Harness, with cases	-	-	-	-	-	400
						{ 200 lead. 200 wheel.

In 14 days:

Carts	-	-	-	-	-	100
Saddles, with cases	-	-	-	-	-	500
Harness, with cases	-	-	-	-	-	500
						{ 250 wheel. 250 lead.

In 28 days:

Carts	-	-	-	-	-	100
Saddles, with cases	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Harness, with cases	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
						{ 500 wheel. 500 lead.

By the end of next week 440 tons light will be ready for shipment for India.

29th August 1867.

Tower Stores.

			Tons.	Ft.	In.
Tents, double	-	-	49	4	11
„ single	-	-	70	20	5
Marquees	-	-	27	28	4
Blankets	-	-	73	0	0
Covers, W.P.	-	-	15	0	0
Say	-	-	236	0	0

All the stores are ready for issue, with the exception of the spare articles ordered this day. They are being packed.

29th August 1867.

No. 126.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, 29th August 1867.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that Captain George Tryon, R.N., has been selected for service as Transport Officer afloat, and to have charge

of all the transport duties in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition, under the orders of Commodore Heath.

Captain Tryon will be employed in assisting in the superintendence of the transports at Deptford, and on the 20th September he will proceed to Bombay by the overland route.

My Lords request that a small steamer may be specially appropriated for the use of this Officer and his staff, consisting of one Military and two Naval Officers, during the period that the transports are employed in the Indian seas.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 127.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 29th, 1867.

Please to send best patent yeast to Suez, sufficient to make bread for six months for 4,000 soldiers.

No. 128.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 29th, 1867.

In reply to
No. 62.

Let the field telegraph be sent by steam transport. The Commander-in-Chief wishes also for 100 land transport waggons, and 30 ambulances.

No. 129.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for War to the Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Dear Mr. Murray,

War Office, August 30, 1867.

Mr. Wetherell, who has undertaken a contract with us for obtaining mules in Spain for the Abyssinian expedition, is about to proceed to Spain for that purpose, accompanied by a veterinary surgeon.

It would be desirable that he should be provided with letters of introduction to the Minister at Madrid and to the Consuls at some of the large towns in the neighbourhood, with a view to facilitate his operations.

Will you kindly arrange for such letters to be prepared at once and sent, under cover, to Mr. Talbot here?

Yours, &c.,
DOUGLAS GALTON.

P.S.—Mr. Wetherell starts to-morrow.

No. 130.

Letter of Introduction to Her Majesty's Ambassador and Consular Officers
in Spain.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 30, 1867.

This letter will be presented to you by Mr. Wetherell, a gentleman who has entered into a contract with the War Office for obtaining mules for the use of Her Majesty's Indian Army.

Mr. Wetherell is about to proceed to Spain for that purpose, and I am directed by Lord Stanley to request that you will facilitate his operations by all the means in your power.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 131.

In reply
No. 117. Telegram from the Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Alexandria, August 30, 1867.

Telegraph open as far as Wady Halfa, second cataract, and from Souakin in direction of Kassala and Berber, about 150 miles. 860 miles in course of construction will require twelve months to complete. Reply with regard to proposed line between Souakin and Massowah deferred, pending reference by telegraph to Viceroy.

No. 132.

In reply to
Nos. 108,
128, and 93. Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, August 30th, 1867.

No. 139. Colonel Lucas started on the 19th. What sort of ambulances are wanted? I have written about Colonel Merewether to the Commander-in-Chief.

No. 133.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 30th August 1867.

No. 121. I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that Sir Stafford Northcote has directed Major-General Willoughby to attend at Woolwich for the purpose mentioned in your letter, but he would suggest that it might be well that Sir John Pakington should also depute some Officer who has had experience in the management of mules to attend likewise.

I am, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 134.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 30th August 1867.

No. 133. I am directed by Secretary Sir J. Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 30th instant, and in reply to state that Major Shervinton, Brigade Major, Military Train at Woolwich, has been deputed to attend at the Royal Arsenal to afford any assistance that may be required in drawing up the proportion of stores for the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 135.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 30th August 1867.

No. 122. I am directed by Secretary Sir J. Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, and in reply to state that it has been arranged, with your concurrence, to supply

1,800 sets of wheel harness, and
1,000 pairs of short traces,
for the Abyssinian expedition, in lieu of the harness previously ordered.
By this means the wheel harness can be made lead.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 136.

Memorandum.

Articles required for the Service of the Mule Depôts to be formed at Alexandria and Suez.

- 7,000 head collars, with chain or shank complete.
- 2,000 heel ropes.
- 1,000 picket ropes (fathoms), with proportion of picket posts and mauls.
- 300 lashing ropes (coils).
- 7,000 nosebags.
- 200 corn sacks.
- 1,000 stable buckets.
- 500 hoof pickers.
- 300 lanterns.
- 100 good padlocks, staples, and loops.
- 40 brands for mules (any Government pattern).
- 2 forges.
- 4 farriers' tools, sets.
- 2 veterinary equipment, complete, sets.
- 12 drivers' saddles and bridles complete, mule size, for mounted duties.
- 12 axes, felling.
- 100 picks.
- 150 spades.
- 150 shovels.
- 20 hammers.
- 100 nails, sorts, lbs.
- 12 Maltese carts.
- 12 sets, pair-mule harness, for driving.
- 4 small cooking stoves.
- 100 blankets (soldiers).
- 1,000 mule blankets or rugs, small size, coarsest kind.
- 1,000 surcingles for ditto.

J. CLARK KENNEDY,
Colonel Commandant,
Military Train.

Head Quarters, Military Train,
Woolwich, 30th August 1867.

No. 137.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 30th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a telegram has been received from the Government of Bombay, proposing that the European portion of the force to be employed in the Abyssinian expedition be armed with the Snider rifle. No. 92.

2. I am, therefore, directed to request that I may be informed whether the War Department is in a position to supply 4,000 of those rifles, with a proportionate supply of ammunition; also, 1,000 Snider breech-loading carbines, with ammunition, for service.

I am, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 138.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 30th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the necessary No. 125.

instructions have been issued to the Director General of Stores of this Department for the shipment of the stores from Woolwich and the Tower therein referred to, and also or all other stores intended to be sent out on board the steam transports engaged by the Admiralty for the service of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 139.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 30th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state, for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, that the Right Honourable the Governor of Bombay and his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief at that Presidency have solicited that Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Merewether, C.B., Bombay Staff Corps, should be promoted to the rank of Colonel, in view to service in Abyssinia.

2. I am instructed by Sir Stafford Northcote to represent that he considers it very desirable that the services of this Officer should be rendered available for the object in question.

3. I am therefore directed to request that you will move His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to cause the necessary measures to be taken for conferring upon Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether the local rank of Colonel in the East Indies, as early as possible.

I have, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 140.

The Assistant Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 30th August 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for India in Council that, the services of Colonel Ross, C.B., Deputy Quartermaster-General in Egypt, being now much required in that country, for the transaction of business in connexion with the Abyssinian as well as the Overland Transport Service, it is proposed that this Officer should leave England for Alexandria by the mail steamer of the 4th of September, if this arrangement meets with Sir Stafford Northcote's approval.

I have, &c.,
E. B. JOHNSON, Colonel,
for the Military Secretary.

No. 141.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for War to the Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My dear Mr. Murray,

War Office, August 31, 1867.

Will you be so good as to telegraph to the Consul at Brindisi to ascertain if there is any probability of mules being obtained there, and in the neighbourhood; and also whether there is any quarantine which would interfere with mules being shipped thence to Alexandria?

Yours, &c.,
DOUGLAS GALTON.

No. 142.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 31st August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to acquaint you, in reply, that Sir Stafford Northcote concurs in the proposal that Colonel Ross, C.B., Deputy Quartermaster-General in Egypt, should leave England for Alexandria by the mail steamer of the 4th September. No. 140.

I have, &c.,

J. PATTISON THOM,
Assistant Military Secretary.

No. 143.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 31st August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that Sir Stafford Northcote approves of the appointment of Captain George Tryon, R.N., as Transport Officer afloat, and to have charge of all the transport duties in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition, under the orders of Commodore Heath. No. 126.

2. Instructions will accordingly be sent to the Government of Bombay, to appropriate a small steamer specially for the use of Captain Tryon and his staff, during the period that the transports are employed in the Indian Seas.

I have, &c.,

J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 144.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
August 31st, 1867.

In reply to
Nos. 95 and
92.

Mr. Parkyn will not go, but I am inquiring about others. Tell me what arrangement you will make for transport between Suez and Massowah. Are so many as 7,000 mules wanted from this side; if fewer will do, let us know. I have ordered two mountain train batteries; are both required? Do you want pack-saddles, and, if so, how many? No. 59.

No. 145.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
August 31st, 1867.

Send any portion of the bell tents which are obtainable immediately, without waiting for the rest. See No. 20.

No. 146.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

Financial, No. 316.

Sir,

August 31st, 1867.

With reference to your telegram, dated 25th August 1867, requesting that the drafts upon India may be diminished so as to enable you to make advances on account of the Abyssinian expedition, without unduly reducing your cash balances, I have to acquaint you that the amount for which tenders will be accepted on the several Governments in India will be reduced, during the next three months, to the extent of one million sterling. No. 80.

2. I take this opportunity of requesting that you will furnish me, with as little delay as may be practicable, with an estimate of the expenses which may probably be incurred in India during the ensuing six months in respect of the expedition.

I have, &c.,
S. H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 147.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

Financial, No. 317.

Sir,

31st August 1867.

In order to facilitate the prompt adjustment in this country of the disbursements in India on account of the Imperial Exchequer in respect of the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia, I request that you will forward to me monthly a statement, with vouchers, of all expenses which have been or may be incurred by your Government in respect of the expedition in question.

2. I have instructed the Governments of Madras and Bombay to transmit similar statements in regard to any disbursements on the same account that may be made by those Governments.

I have, &c.,
S. H. NORTHCOTE.

(Similar despatches were sent to Madras and Bombay.)

No. 148.

The Secretary of State for India to the Government of Bombay.

Financial, No. 125.

Sir,

31st August 1867.

I have to inform you that arrangements have been made for the purchase and transmission to the Political Agent at Aden of a supply of Austrian Maria Theresa dollars for the use of the projected expedition to Abyssinia.

2. The Political Agent has been directed to attend to the instructions of your Government in regard to the disposal of the coin, which will be forwarded to him in consignments of not less than 20,000 dollars each.

3. Advice will be forwarded to you as it is received at this Office of the shipment of the several consignments from Trieste.

No. 149.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 31st August 1867.

No. 137.

In reply to your letter of the 30th instant, I am desired by Secretary Sir John Pakington to inform you that the demand for breech-loading (Snider) rifles and carbines can be supplied by this Department, and that the arms, with ammunition for them, will be held in readiness for shipment by the India Store Department.

I am also to request that the number of rounds of ball and blank ammunition per arm may be stated, and that the description of carbines, whether for Artillery or Cavalry, may also be stated.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 150.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 31st August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, and to acquaint you, in reply, that Sir Stafford

No. 149.

Northcote requests that the 4,000 Snider rifles and 1,000 carbines, referred to, with ammunition, &c., may be ready for shipment not later than Friday next.

2. Of the carbines, 200 are to be for Cavalry and 800 for Artillery.

3. I am further instructed to request that two million five hundred thousand rounds of ball and twenty thousand of blank ammunition be supplied with these arms.

I have, &c.,

J. P. THOM,

Assistant, Military Department.

No. 151.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 31st August 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that it is considered absolutely necessary that two Non-commissioned Officers should accompany the 7-pounder equipment to Abyssinia (not in charge of it), so that on its arrival they can fully explain how each load is packed, and how distributed and carried.

It would not be possible to convey the information in writing; and Non-commissioned Officers are preferable for this particular service, as they would be practically informed, and the expense but small.

As the conveyance and rations of these Non-commissioned Officers would be provided, it is proposed that light clothing should be given them, and that they should receive the same rate of pay that Sergeant-Conductors of the 1st class receive in India.

After explaining in detail to the officers concerned the mode of packing, &c., these Non-commissioned Officers could return to this country.

I am, therefore, to request that you will move Sir Stafford Northcote to state whether he concurs in this arrangement, in order that directions may be given accordingly.

I have, &c.,

LONGFORD.

No. 152.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 31st August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state, for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, that a requisition for mountain batteries and rockets for service in Abyssinia has lately been submitted to the War Office. No. 59.

2. I am, therefore, instructed by Sir Stafford Northcote to suggest, for the consideration of His Royal Highness, that two or more young Officers, and a small detachment of Non-commissioned Officers and men of Royal Artillery, should be sent to the Arsenal at Woolwich for the purpose of making themselves acquainted with the equipment of the mountain train batteries and the method of packing them on mules, and of learning the use and practice of Hale's war rockets, which it is understood have not hitherto been employed on service with Her Majesty's troops, and that they be directed to proceed, probably about six weeks hence, in charge of the Mountain Train and rocket equipment when despatched to the Red Sea.

I am, &c.,

J. P. THOM,

Assistant, Military Department.

No. 153.

The Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 31st August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, and in reply to forward, for the information of Sir John Pakington, copy of a letter which has this day been addressed to the

Military Secretary, relative to the provision of Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and men for service with the mountain train batteries, &c., under provision for service in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
J. P. THOM,
Assistant, Military Department.

No. 154.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
31st August 1867.

Sir,

I beg to acquaint you with reference to the expedition to Abyssinia for which arrangements are now in progress, that provisions and medical comforts, in the requisite proportions for the subsistence of 4,000 men for three months, for the European troops to be conveyed from India, will be sent out in the steam transports about to be engaged by this Department, in accordance with the established scale of victualling, with the exception of biscuit and flour, which it is not considered advisable to send out, as they can be procured in India.

2. The provisions will be shipped in the several vessels in such proportions as will form, in each case, a complete supply of every article for 400 men for three months.

3. A list of the whole of the provisions and medical comforts in detail, with the exceptions above mentioned, is enclosed.

4. The masters of the several vessels conveying these provisions will have instructions to produce to the proper Officer at Bombay, through the principal Transport Officer afloat, the bills of lading and the cargo books, which they are required to keep, in order that the quantities of every article actually on board may be known.

5. I have to request that you will be pleased to cause directions to be given, through the proper Officer at Bombay, to the master of any vessels engaged at that port which may be appropriated for the conveyance of European troops, to issue these provisions in accordance with the accompanying authorized scales of victualling, and to render accounts thereof, at the termination of the service, in such form as may be usual in the case of troops victualled upon Government provisions embarked in ships engaged by the Indian Government; observing that, with regard to the vessels engaged in England, the masters will have instructions from this Department to render their accounts in the mode customary in this country, and they will be rendered and passed here when the service is terminated.

6. It is presumed that all arrangements or regulations that may be necessary with regard to the victualling of Native troops, or others not European, will be made by the Bombay Government.

7. I beg to add, that a supply of bedding, for use on ship board, for 4,000 European troops will also be sent out in the same vessels, and that the quantities on board each vessel will be made known by the respective masters on arrival at Bombay, in the same mode as in the case of the provisions.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDS.

Enclosure in No. 154.

List of Provisions and Medical Comforts.

<i>Provisions.</i>					<i>Tons.</i>	
Sugar	-	-	-	57,856 lbs.	-	38
Tea	-	-	-	11,250 "	-	14
Salt pork	-	-	-	77,142 "	-	61
Split peas	-	-	-	22,856 "	-	19
Salt beef	-	-	-	77,142 "	-	60
Suet	-	-	-	6,428 "	-	8
Raisins	-	-	-	12,856 "	-	10
Mustard	-	-	-	1,607 "	-	2
Pepper	-	-	-	1,607 "	-	2
Vinegar	-	-	-	1,071 galls.	-	8

			Tons.
Boiled mutton (large tins)	57,856	} lbs.	114
Boiled beef (ditto)	57,856		
Rice	12,856	"	10
Mixed pickles	19,283	"	15
Salt	6,428	"	2
Compressed vegetables	12,856	"	10
Preserved potatoes	12,856	"	12
Porter	45,000	galls.	312
			697

Medical Comforts.

			Tons.	Feet.
Sugar, lump	5,400	} lbs.	8	30
Sugar	7,200			
Tea, best black	720	"	1	
Vinegar	90	galls.	1	
Port wine	2,880	} bottles	20	
White wine	1,440			
Preserved meats	1,060	lbs.		30
Essence of beef	18,000	½-pints	5	
Rice	2,880	lbs.	3	
Lime juice	2,120	pints	4	
Brandy	360	bottles	2	
Porter	4,500	pints	10	
Pearl barley	1,080	} lbs.	4	
Sago	720			
Arrowroot	1,440			
Rum	90	galls.		30
Ale	4,500	pints	10	
Preserved milk	7,200	"	5	
Chloride of zinc	1,440	"	1	
Soap	720	lbs.		20
Preserved potatoes	4,320	"	3	
Compressed vegetables	1,080	"		20
Prepared soup	4,320	pints	4	
Pickles	360	bottles		10
			83	20

No. 155.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 31st August 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying copy of a Memorandum from the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, proposing that each of the hospital ships should carry a Surgeon and an Assistant Surgeon, as well as a Ward Master, a Compounder of Medicines, and Orderlies of Army Hospital Corps, in proportion to the number of sick for which they are fitted up.

The Secretary of State for India will observe that Dr. Logan further suggests that a detachment of the Purveyor's Department and a Sanitary Officer should be sent from this country to accompany the force.

Sir John Pakington will be glad to be favoured with Sir Stafford Northcote's wishes with regard to these proposals.

I am, &c.,
LONGFORD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 155.

Memorandum.

With reference to Captain Galton's note of the 26th instant, regarding the medical inspection of the transports about to proceed to Abyssinia, &c., I have to inform you that the Director-General of the Army Medical Department has instructed Deputy Inspector-General H. H. Massey to superintend the fitting up of these ships, and that, in his case, no additional pay will be necessary beyond the ordinary allowances to which he may be entitled while so employed.

The Director-General is of opinion that each ship should have a Surgeon and an Assistant Surgeon, who should receive the same pay and allowances as other Staff Medical Officers of their rank serving with the expedition.

Each ship should also have a Ward Master, a Compounder of Medicines, and Orderlies of Army Hospital Corps in proportion to the number of sick for which they are fitted up, and the Purveyor-in-Chief should provide a sufficient staff for his Department. These subordinate services should be on a liberal scale, as it will be impossible to recruit them from home, and it is not likely the General Officer commanding will feel disposed to give men from the ranks for the duties of hospital ships.

Dr. Logan thinks that those Surgeons who may be selected to take charge of these hospital ships should be present during their preparation for sea; and, as he has no Surgeons to replace them, an augmentation of establishment to that extent will be required.

He is also of opinion that a Sanitary Officer should be sent from this country to accompany the force; and as this will necessitate a further augmentation, provision should be made for at least four Surgeons. As they cannot, however, be replaced by Assistant Surgeons before April next, the cost will only be the difference of pay of four Assistant Surgeons of 12 years' service, and an equal number of Surgeons of equal rank.

29th August 1867.

Army Medical Department.

No. 156.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 31st August 1867.

No. 100.

With reference to my letter of the 28th instant, forwarding copy of a Memorandum showing the arrangements which have been made for obtaining a supply of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed printed programme and instructions on the subject,* as finally approved, and I am at the same time to forward a list of the Officers who have been appointed to each of the stations whence the supply of mules will be furnished.

I am, &c.,
LONGFORD.

Enclosure in No. 156.

List of Officers.

Destination.	Military Officer.	Commissariat Officer.	Veterinary Surgeon.
Alicante - - -	Captain Whinyates, Royal Artillery.	Assistant Commissary-General Cumming.	Mr. Partridge.
Valencia - - -	Captain Wortham, Royal Artillery.	Assistant Commissary-General Irving.	Mr. Bolton.
Barcelona - - -	Lieutenant Turnbull, Royal Artillery.	Deputy Commissary-General Wingfield.	Mr. Harrison.
Majorca and Minorca -	Captain Corbett, Military Train	- - -	Mr. Death.
Piedmont and Genoa -	Lieutenant Roberts, Military Train.	Assistant Commissary-General Baynes.	Mr. Harpley
Smyrna - - -	Captain Hobart, Royal Artillery	Assistant Commissary-General Downes.	Mr. Henge.
Scanderoon - - -	Lieutenant Brace, Military Train.	Assistant Commissary-General Maule.	Mr. Tatam.
Antioch and Aleppo -	Major Dartnell - - -	Ditto - - -	Mr. Marshall.
Tyre, Sidon, and Beyrout -	Captain McNeill - - -	Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Casolain.	Mr. Fleming.
Samsoon and Trebizond -	Captain Webber, Royal Engineers.	Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Furse.	Mr. Anderson.
Gibraltar - - -	- - -	- - -	Mr. Field.
Spain, under Mr. Wetherell's Contract.	- - -	- - -	Mr. Thacker.

* For revised copy of these papers, see No. 212.

No. 157.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 31st August 1867.

In reference to my letter dated the 30th instant, and in reply to yours of the 29th of August, I am instructed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that it has now been decided to send only 1,800 sets wheel harness, 900 pairs short traces, and 400 whips. No. 135. No. 122.

The tonnage of the harness will therefore be reduced to about 152 tons from 630 tons.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 158.

Telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna to the Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In reply to No. 73.

Vienna, September 1, 1867.

Three or four thousand Maria Theresa dollars might be collected in the course of a week between this place and Trieste, at the price of about 2 florins and 62 kreutzers, Austrian currency, per dollar.

The Imperial Mint at Vienna would undertake to coin any amount of these dollars, delivering about 200,000 weekly.

The silver to be so coined must be supplied to the Mint, which, moreover, does not accept advances on amount in gold.

I have obtained the above information from Rothschild.

Further details by the messenger.

No. 159.

Telegram from the Consul-General at Naples to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Naples, September 1, 1867.

Acting Consul at Brindisi telegraphs that mules can be procured there, and that there is no quarantine at Alexandria. See No. 141.

No. 160.

The Acting Consul-General at Venice to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
Received Sept. 2, 1867.

British Consulate General, Venice,
August 29th, 1867.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. James Murray's Despatch of the 24th instant, to Mr. Perry, informing him of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to ascertain whether a supply of Maria Theresa dollars can be obtained here or elsewhere, to what extent, and at what cost, and signifying also the importance of any information that he might be able to procure on this subject. No. 73.

In reply, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the amount of Maria Theresa dollars now in circulation in this country is so small, in consequence of there having been no coinage of them for some time past, that no important quantity of them is now obtainable, in consequence of which the new Austrian florins and thalers (of one and a half florins), the former equal to two, the latter to three shillings sterling, which are silver coins of the same standard as Maria Theresa dollars, 9/10, have already been used to a large extent for remittances to the Levant, and these might at present be procured for a large amount.

At the period when the monetary convention was concluded in 1858 between Austria and the German States, and the coinage of the ancient dollar of two convention florins was discontinued, the coinage of the Maria Theresa dollar was, in order to facilitate commerce with the Levant, reserved as a privilege to the Mint of Venice, where, if the

information I have received be correct, the dies still exist, but the Finance authorities cannot permit the use of them.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD VALENTINE,
Acting Consul-General.

No. 161.

Telegram from the Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Cairo, September 2d, 1867.

Permission is granted for passage of expedition through Egyptian territory. Egyptian Officers will proceed immediately to Massowah to ensure every facility being afforded, and Viceroy's ships of war in the Red Sea are placed at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government in case of need.

No. 162.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 2d September 1867.

No. 156.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, and its accompanying printed programme and instructions connected with the provision of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, together with a manuscript list of the Officers who have been appointed to each of the stations whence the supply of mules will be provided.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 163.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Transport Officer in Egypt.

Sir, India Office, 2d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that arrangements have been made by the Secretary of State for War for the collection of mules from various points, to be landed at Alexandria, for the formation of depôts for these animals at Alexandria and at Suez, for their conveyance across the isthmus, and for their maintenance at Suez until they are fetched away by the Bombay Government.

2. I am therefore instructed to request that you will render every assistance in your power for landing the mules at Alexandria and embarking them at Suez, and that you will co-operate generally, as far as you may have opportunity, with the Officers employed upon this duty by the Secretary of State for War.

3. The Government of Bombay will be informed that the Officers whom they may send to Suez, for the purpose of bringing away the mules, should be instructed to apply to you, and you will take care that the animals are duly embarked.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 164.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Transport Officer in Egypt.

Sir, India Office, 2d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that, between the middle of September and the middle of November, considerable quantities of stores will arrive at Alexandria, consigned to you, to be forwarded to Suez for shipment at that port, under the instructions of the Bombay Government, for service in Abyssinia.

2. You will therefore make the necessary preparations for the reception of these stores, and for their being forwarded with as little delay as possible to Suez.

3. Captain Johnson, at Alexandria, the Agent in Egypt for the Secretary of State for India in Council, has been instructed to afford you every possible assistance in furtherance of this object, and also for the landing of the mules referred to in my previous letter of this day's date.

No. 163.

4. I am at the same time requested to inquire, whether you will require any further assistance, to enable you to carry out these instructions, and, if so, to what extent.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 165.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Agent of the Secretary of State for India in Council at Alexandria.

Sir, India Office, 2d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will place yourself in communication with Captain Willoughby, R.N., the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt for this Office, immediately upon his arrival at Alexandria, in view to rendering him every possible assistance in carrying out his instructions for the reception and transit through Egypt of mules, stores, &c., intended for the service of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 166.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 2d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward to you, for the information of Sir John Pakington, copies of two letters which Sir Stafford Northcote has addressed to Captain Willoughby, the Principal Transport Officer and Agent for the Government of India in Egypt, instructing him as to the arrangements which have been made for the transport of mules, and also for the transport of stores to Suez, and I am to request that you will move Sir J. Pakington to instruct Colonel Clark Kennedy accordingly.

Nos. 163 a
164.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 167.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, War Office, September 2, 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that, in consequence of the inconvenient communications, the officers who are going out to Constantinople, Smyrna, Beyrout, Scanderoon, and Tunis, for the purpose of purchasing mules for the British Government, personally and by contract, cannot reach their respective destinations for several days.

Sir John Pakington is therefore very anxious that the Consuls at the various places specified may be notified by telegraph that the parties engaged in the purchase of mules may be expected shortly, and requested to give notoriety to the anticipated demand, and to afford any other assistance in their power.

Sir John Pakington would strongly recommend this step being taken, as he is convinced that by sending this preliminary notice to the several Consuls, the operations of the officers employed on this service will be greatly facilitated.

I am to add that the Consuls should be informed that the mules should not be under four years old, and trained for burden.

I have, &c.,

LONGFORD.

No. 168.

Telegram addressed to Her Majesty's Consuls at Constantinople, Smyrna, Beyrout, Alexandretta, Tunis, and Cairo.

Foreign Office, September 2, 1867.

Officers who will deliver detailed instructions to you are sent to the place of your residence to purchase mules for military purposes in Abyssinia. The mules not to be under four years old, and to be trained for burden. Give public notice to this effect, so that on the arrival of the officers parties having mules for sale may be ready to offer them.

No. 169.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 2, 1867.

No. 168.
No. 167.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a copy of a telegram which, in accordance with the request contained in your letter of to-day, has been sent to Her Majesty's Consular Officers at Constantinople, Smyrna, Beyrout, Tunis, and Alexandretta, regarding the purchase of mules for the use of the expedition to Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 170.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 2, 1867.

No. 111.

With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I am directed by Lord Stanley to state to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that the Acting British Consul at Brindisi has reported that mules are to be purchased in the neighbourhood of that port, and that there is no quarantine at present at Alexandria.

I am to add that the Acting British Consul-General at Naples has reported that mules were procurable at that port, and that they could be shipped to Alexandria by English merchant steamers.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 171.

In reply to
No. 145.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, September 2d, 1867.

About the middle of November 1,000 bell tents will be at Bombay.

No. 172.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India, September 2d, 1867.

Gazette Staveley to local rank for the expedition immediately, if you wish him to be second in command, as Malcolm, whose local rank is only Indian, will become substantive Major-General, if only two Generals of Native Infantry die. Has an understanding about landing in Egypt been come to with the Pacha?

No. 173.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 2d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, and to acquaint you in reply that Sir Stafford Northcote entirely approves of the arrangements proposed by the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, in connexion with the hospital ships of the Abyssinian expedition. No. 155.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 174.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, Pall Mall, 2d September 1867.

In reference to your letter dated 22d August, I am instructed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that the Superintendent of the Royal Gun Factories has reported, that in all probability the two mountain batteries required for the Abyssinian expedition will be ready in six weeks from the 26th August. No. 59.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 175.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 2d September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, with reference to the carriage of stores for the Abyssinian expedition to the port of Suez, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Agents of the Suez Canal Company, announcing that the Canal is now in perfect working order, and offering the use of it for the conveyance of mules, &c.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

Enclosure in No. 175.

MESSRS. MOSSES and MITCHELL to the Under Secretary of State for War.

My Lord, 55, Gracechurch Street, 31st August 1867.

We respectfully beg reference to our interview with your Lordship yesterday, and are now prepared to enter into an arrangement for the conveyance of horses and mules through the Suez Canal from Port Said to Suez, at thirty-seven shillings and sixpence sterling (37s. 6d.) per head; this item includes the cost of embarkation and debarkation of the animals.

We may mention that the canal is now in the most perfect working order for such purposes, and craving your Lordship's consideration,

We have, &c.,
MOSSES & MITCHELL.

No. 176.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 2d September 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the arrangements for the reception at Alexandria and Suez of the mules collected for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has been requested to instruct Colonel Ross, Deputy Quartermaster-General, to afford the assistance of his Department to Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., whilst employed

in Egypt, not, however, interfering with or interrupting the special service of the Indian overland reliefs.

I am, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 177.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 2d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit to you the accompanying letter from Sir J. Macneill, suggesting the plan of a railway to accompany the Abyssinian expedition; and I am to request that, in laying the same before Sir Stafford Northcote, you will request him to give this proposal his attentive consideration.

I am, &c.,
LONGFORD.

Enclosure in No. 177.

Sir JOHN MACNEILL to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir, 23, Cockspur Street, September 2d, 1867.

Having read the various statements which have appeared in the public papers relative to the difficulties that may exist as to the transport of troops in Abyssinia, I venture to intrude upon your time and to make a suggestion which, if you should entertain and think it worthy of consideration, I shall be most happy to attend you, at any moment, so as to answer any queries you might desire to make on the subject.

My idea is, that a cheap, simple, and expeditious railway, constructed on a principle which I had the honour of explaining to a Select Committee in the session of 1866 on tramways for Ireland, might, I think, be applied with great advantage in the proposed campaign in Abyssinia, and, if I understand aright the description of the country which has been given, that there is tolerable level ground from the sea coast, comprised of sand and jungle, extending, some of the writers say, 60 miles, others 100, and some 200 miles before the mountain range is attained. In a country such as this, if the descriptions be correct, a line of railway, such as I would propose, would be laid with great expedition; the rails need not exceed 30 lbs. per yard, or say 25 tons per mile, and the sleepers need not be more than five feet in length, containing about three-quarters of a cubic foot of timber, and if the country be sand no other ballast would be required. The locomotives and rolling stock would be exceedingly light. These locomotives would not cost more than 1,000*l.* each, they would take a load of 80 tons up an incline of 1 in 40, and on a moderate level line 100 to 150 tons at the rate of 12 to 15 miles per hour. One of these engines would thus take, on tolerably level ground, 800 or 1,200 men in each train. A railway of 50 miles might, I think, be laid for 60,000*l.* to 70,000*l.*, exclusive of freight, and at the end of the campaign would be very little deteriorated, and might be used to advantage in India in the construction of secondary lines. Five or six locomotives would, probably, be all that would be required, and they would be constructed in about 10 weeks after giving the order, and the rails and sleepers could be obtained by degrees, so that a railway of 50 miles might, I think, be laid in three months from this time. I have a staff of experienced engineers, who, along with my son, Mr. Telford Macneill, are well accustomed to Eastern life, having spent a length of time with me and for me in Turkey in Europe, Turkey in Asia, Syria, and Palestine, so that I could at once, without an hour's delay, commence operations. Although my sight is now defective, I have the same energy, zeal, and capability in expediting and carrying out works as I ever had, and on this point I would respectfully request, should you think my proposition worthy of consideration, that you would refer to His Royal Highness Field Marshal the Duke of Cambridge, General Sir John Burgoyne, Lord Clarendon, or George Alexander Hamilton, Esq., Secretary of the Treasury, to all of whom I have the honour to be professionally known.

I have, &c.,
JOHN MACNEILL.

No. 178.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, 2d September, 1867.

With reference to former correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Secretary of State for India that, in reply to their Lordships' request to that effect, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have stated that they will take the necessary steps for providing an additional supply of 10,000 tons of coals for Government service at Bombay, besides the 20,000 tons alluded to in my letter of the 24th ultimo.

I have, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 179.

The Assistant Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Horse Guards, 2d September 1867.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, relative to the mountain batteries and rockets for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to state that, agreeably to the suggestion of the Secretary of State for India in Council, instructions have been issued with a view to two or more young Officers, and a small detachment of Non-commissioned Officers and men, of Royal Artillery being sent to the Arsenal at Woolwich, for the purpose of making themselves acquainted with the equipment of the mountain train batteries and the method of packing them on mules, and of learning the use and practice of Hale's war rockets. No. 152.

I have, &c.,
E. B. JOHNSON, Colonel,
for Military Secretary.

No. 180.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 2d September 1867.

Referring to my letter of the 31st ultimo, relative to the provision of the medical staff, &c., for the hospital ships now fitting for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit to you, for the consideration of Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Admiralty, relating to the supply of bedding and other requisites for these ships. No. 155.

I am, &c.,
LONGFORD.

Enclosure in No. 180.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Admiralty, Somerset House, 2d September 1867.

I request that you will be pleased to inform me whether bedding of all sorts, and every appliance for hospital use, will be supplied by the War Office to the three hospital ships now fitting for service in the Indian seas, the same as they were to the Chinese hospital ships.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDES.

No. 181.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 2d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, and to acquaint you in reply that the Snider rifles and carbines therein referred to have been ordered to be supplied, and that they will be ready for shipment at the Tower not later than Friday next. No. 150.

The ammunition for these arms will be ready for shipment at Woolwich by the same date.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 182.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 3d, 1867.

No. 26.

With reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a telegram received this day from the Acting British Consul-General in Egypt, reporting the proceedings of the Viceroy of that country with reference to the proposed expedition to Abyssinia.

No. 161.

I am, &c.,

E. HAMMOND.

No. 183.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, September 3d, 1867.

In reply to
Nos. 172 and
93.

The Pacha has granted permission for passage of the expedition through Egyptian territory. Local rank is to be conferred on Merewether.

No. 184.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 3d, 1867.

No. 46.

With reference to the letter from this Office of the 17th ultimo, regarding the coinage best adapted for circulation in Abyssinia, I am directed by Lord Stanley to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for India, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna has reported that it might be possible to collect in a week 3,000 or 4,000 Maria Theresa dollars at the price of two florins sixty-two kreutzers, Austrian currency, per dollar.

The Imperial Mint would undertake to coin and deliver any amount of these dollars, to the extent of 200,000 a week, if the silver were supplied, but they will not receive gold.

Lord Bloomfield will send further details by the next messenger from Vienna, who will arrive on Friday, the 6th instant.

I am also to enclose, for Sir Stafford Northcote's information, a copy of a Despatch upon this subject, which has been received from the Acting British Consul-General at Venice.

I am, &c.,

E. HAMMOND.

No. 185.

Mr. LARKING to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My dear Sir,

The Firs, Lee, Kent, September 3, 1867.

Referring to my conversation with you yesterday in reference to a letter from Nubar Pasha, I send you, according to your desire, an extract from the same, and shall feel greatly obliged if you can give me the information required.

Nubar's object in applying for this information is, that by direct communication, much delay, consequent upon the Viceroy's absence from Egypt, may be avoided.

I will call at the Foreign Office this afternoon in the hope of receiving an answer, and remain, &c.

JOHN W. LARKING.

* A similar letter was addressed to the War Office.

Enclosure in No. 185.

Extract of a Letter from NUBAR PASHA to Mr. LARKING.

Il parait que votre expédition d'Abyssinie est décidée. Anderson m'a même dit que l'on s'adressait à la Compagnie Orientale pour avoir des transports.

Seulement, quel sera le lieu de débarquement? Pour moi je ne vois que Massowah, je ne connais pas d'autre port.

Or, Massowah nous appartient. Il serait donc essentiel pour le Viceroy de savoir si c'est à Massowah qu'aura lieu le débarquement.

Il faudrait vous informer d'une manière certaine et me le faire savoir promptement.

Je vous en prie de ne négliger pas cette information.

De plus les journaux parlent de 5,000 chameaux que le Viceroy doit fournir.

On n'en a pas parlé au Viceroy. Quelle est la vérité à ce sujet?

Mais surtout renseignez moi sur le lieu de débarquement.

No. 186.

Memorandum by the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reference to the preceding Letter.

Mr. Reade was instructed, on the 19th of August, to ask the Egyptian Government for permission to pass through the Egyptian territory, and for facilities for the officers going to Massowah to make arrangements for purchase of supplies and means of land transport. No. 51.

A telegram has been received from him to-day, saying that permission has been granted for passage of expedition. Egyptian officers will be immediately sent to Massowah to ensure facilities, and Pasha of Egypt's ships of war in Red Sea are placed, in case of need, at disposal of Her Majesty's Government. No. 161.

Mr. Reade has since been instructed to ask for facilities at Suez and Alexandria in regard to dépôt for mules to be purchased and sent through Egypt; and also for permission to lay down telegraph between Souakin and Massowah. No. 116.

I can hear nothing of 5,000 camels; and I cannot say whether it is settled that the expedition is to land at Massowah.

E. HAMMOND.

Foreign Office, September 3, 1867.

No. 187.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 3d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that 5,000 Snider rifles and carbines have been ordered to be supplied for expedition to Abyssinia, and that they will be ready for shipment at the Tower not later than Friday next.

2. The ammunition (2,500,000 rounds) for these arms will be ready for shipment at Woolwich by the same date.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 188.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 3d September 1867.

No. 180.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, with enclosure from the Admiralty, relative to the supply of bedding and other requisites for the three hospital ships now fitting for service in the Red Sea, and to state that Sir S. Northcote is of opinion that the three ships should be completely equipped with all essentials for the reception of the number of sick they are intended to accommodate.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 189.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 3d, 1867.

The Commander-in-Chief wishes to have a body of signallers, trained by Captain Bolton to the new system of army signals,—about 30 men, under a subaltern, with telegraph codes and signalling apparatus.

No. 190.

Major CHAMPAIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

5, John Street, Adelphi, 3d September 1867.

In compliance with your wishes, I have the honour to submit an outline of the preparations I consider it advisable to make for equipping a Field Telegraph Train for service in Abyssinia.

Since you first spoke to me on the subject, I have consulted Captain Stotherd, R.E., who is in charge of the Engineer Telegraph Class at Chatham. I have had access to Captain Webber's Reports on the Continental Equipments, and I took advantage of my recent visit to Paris to examine the Austrian Field Train, the details of which were explained to me by the man in charge.

I am decidedly of opinion that, in the present instance, simplicity and lightness are the main points to be looked to. The heavy carriages and elaborate appurtenances of the Austrian and Prussian field telegraphs, adapted as they may be to a European campaign, would prove utterly unsuitable to a wild roadless country like Abyssinia.

It must be borne in mind that, in European warfare, a Commander finds the general system of telegraphs in each country ready to his hands. He has only to arrange for its maintenance or repair, and on it he grafts his temporary branch lines. In Abyssinia we must, of course, look for no assistance of this kind, and I would, therefore, propose that stores should be supplied for two distinct objects:—

First. For a semi-permanent aerial line from the port of debarkation, say Massowah, to whatever point in the interior might be selected as the head quarters of the force.

Second. For flying lines, to connect the head quarters with the different outposts, &c.

The first or semi-permanent line may be calculated at about 300 miles in length, and I would consequently provide material for 350 miles. For such a line 10,000 poles would be amply sufficient, which, made of stout bamboos, 18 feet long, could easily be obtained and shipped from Bombay. I understand that a belt of forest divides the low land near the coast from the plateau of Abyssinia proper; and if this be the case, insulators to carry the wire could be fixed to the trees, and fewer bamboos would be necessary, but, to avoid risks, it would be better to supply the 10,000 poles, and use them or not, according to circumstances. Bamboo supports over an open country will require no insulators, the wire being passed over a notch at the top, but for forests or marshy land I would send out a supply of 4,000 light insulators, of simple construction;

half the number, according to a pattern which I saw at the Paris Exhibition, for supporting a wire on living trees, the rest for fixing with ease and rapidity on the top of the bamboo standards. Copper wire presents so many advantages as regards conductivity, facility of manipulation, and especially portability, that after much deliberation I venture unhesitatingly to recommend its adoption in preference to iron wire. I presume that the question of carriage will be of the first importance, and, judging from our experience in Persia, I do not think that the one material would present greater temptation to marauders than the other. The copper wire should be that known as No. 16, which weighs under 60 lbs. per mile, and costs, I think, from 55 to 60 shillings. It should be ordered from Messrs. T. Bolton and Sons, Broad Street, Birmingham, and must possess at least 85 per cent. of the conductivity of pure copper. I would provide for use on this semi-permanent line eight of Siemen's and Halske's lately improved recording Morse instruments, with portable tables fitted up for writing. To the design and construction of these I shall immediately turn my attention.

To erect a line of the above description, keeping pace with the march of the force, at, say, 20 miles a day, a company of Native Pioneers, or 150 ordinary Coolies, would suffice. To avoid the possibility of confusion, I would recommend that the necessary tools, such as crowbars, borers, axes, rammers, and rope, should be sent from England. Spades and pickaxes were in the first instance supplied for erecting the Persian permanent telegraph, but were rarely if ever used, and should a few be required in the present instance, doubtless they could be borrowed from the Engineer park. I will, after careful inquiry, submit an estimate of the number of baggage animals which will probably be required, and may then, perhaps, take occasion to add to or even alter some of the proposals put forward in this rather hurried letter. Of the organization of the staff for working this semi-permanent line, I shall treat in a future paragraph.

The flying lines should, in my opinion, be laid on the ground. There are objections to this plan, but they apply entirely to European battle-fields, where the forces engaged number hundreds of thousands, and where the carts, waggons, and guns are innumerable. As a rule, a wire laid on the ground for a short time only would attract less notice, and be infinitely easier to put down and pick up, get less in the way of Cavalry, &c., and would not be one whit easier to damage wilfully than a line on poles. I would most strongly recommend for such work Hooper's india-rubber core of small diameter, with a strand conductor. Captain Stotherd informs me that he has seen a battery of artillery drive over this core laid on a hard macadamized road, without doing it the smallest injury. India-rubber stands dry heat infinitely better than gutter percha, and the cost is about the same. Probably 50 miles would be enough to send out. The Hooper's core must be carefully coiled after manufacture on drums made expressly for the purpose, the weight of each drum and coil not exceeding 140 lbs., so that one mule may carry two. This load may seem large, but I am informed on unimpeachable authority that none of the passes between Massowah and the interior can be compared in difficulty to the road between Bushire and Shiraz, where mules regularly travel 20 miles a day under loads of 300 lbs., in addition to the pack-saddle. 50 mules would carry the whole flying line equipment, including Hooper's core, light tents, apparatus, &c. For these flying lines I am inclined to recommend the acoustic field apparatus of Messrs. Siemens and Halske, which, after long trial in Persia, have given great satisfaction. They are portable, easy of adjustment, and bear any amount of rough usage; but before finally deciding this point, I should wish to make fuller inquiries, particularly as to the qualifications of the men we may expect to get from Chatham, the result of which shall be communicated in my supplementary report. The necessary stationery and forms for the field telegraph must be furnished from this country.

I now come to the important question of the best method of organizing the staff to whom the working of the telegraph train is to be entrusted, and I would strongly advise that the control and superintendence of the whole Department, including both semi-permanent and flying lines, should be placed in the hands of some Engineer Officer who has not only had experience in practical telegraphy, but who has also been accustomed to the direction of native working parties. Under this Superintendent should, I think, be appointed one junior Engineer Officer as Assistant Superintendent in charge of the semi-permanent, and a second in charge of the flying lines; the former of whom, at any rate, should have served in the East. For the semi-permanent I would suggest that 12 European or Eurasian signallers, well accustomed to the Morse instrument, should be engaged and sent out from Bombay. These would be employed in the standing offices only, and

I think that four European Non-commissioned Officers should also be sent from India expressly to supervise the construction and maintenance of the aerial line. In selecting the latter I would look rather to steadiness, temper, and experience with natives, than for technical knowledge, which will really be scarcely required.

The working staff of the flying lines under the Assistant Superintendent mentioned above, should consist of at least 20 thoroughly trained Non-commissioned Officers or Sappers of Royal Engineers from the Telegraph School at Chatham. This number could, I believe, be obtained without difficulty by application through the Horse Guards to Colonel Simmons, the Director of the Royal Engineers establishment, who could, I have no doubt, recommend an Officer to accompany them as Assistant Superintendent.

An indispensable adjunct to the field telegraph train will be an apparatus and special staff for day and night signalling, by means of flags, and cones, heliotropes, and flashing lights. I have never had an opportunity of studying the details of this method of telegraphic communication, but I know that the system, in all its parts, has been brought to considerable perfection at Chatham, and, if authorized, I would place myself in communication with Colonel Simmons, and report further on the steps which ought to be taken. Such a system would be invaluable in communicating with the shipping from land, and also in case of accidental breaks in the flying lines, or in situations where some intervening obstacle might preclude the laying of the core. The Officer and men in charge of these apparatus should certainly be under the orders of the Superintendent of the entire telegraph train.

The following Table shows what Staff and Stores should be furnished from England and Bombay respectively.

STAFF.

No.	Rank.	Remarks.
1	Superintendent - - -	To take the charge of the whole equipment.
<i>For Semi-permanent Line.</i>		
1	Assistant Superintendent -	In charge. Should be a Subaltern, Royal Engineers, from India.
4	Non-commissioned Officers -	To supervise construction and maintenance of aerial line; must be from India.
100	Native Pioneers or Sappers -	From India. If not to be procured, 150 Coolies will be necessary.
12	Signallers - - -	From India. European or Eurasian, for service in the standing offices only.
<i>For Flying Lines.</i>		
1	Assistant Superintendent -	In charge. Should be a Subaltern, Royal Engineers, from Chatham.
25	Non-commissioned Officers and Sappers, Royal Engineers.	To lay and work flying lines. The whole number to be obtained, if possible, from Chatham.
<i>For Signal Corps.</i>		
1	Assistant Superintendent -	Subaltern, Royal Engineers, from Chatham.
—	—	Staff, according to Colonel Simmons's advice.

STORES and MATERIAL.

From Bombay.

No.	Detail.	Remarks.
10,000	Strong bamboos, 18 feet long -	Of the kind usually employed for scaffolding in India.
1	Large double poled tent - -	Office at Massowah.
3	Single poled tents - - -	For intermediate offices on semi-permanent line.

Tents for the Staff and workmen will, I presume, be supplied, as for the rest of the force, from Bombay.

From England.

		Probable Cost.	
		£	
350 miles	No. 16 copper wire, weighing about 60 lbs. per mile.	1,000	Conductivity 85 per cent. of pure copper; must be ordered from Messrs. Bolton, Birmingham.
500 lbs.	No. 8 iron wire for stays - - -	10	
4,000	Insulators - - - - -	500	2,000 of one pattern, 2,000 of another.
50 miles	Hooper's core, three-strand, at 45l., including drums, &c.	2,250	To be securely packed on drums; none to weigh more than 140 lbs.; length to be marked thereon.
8	Siemens and Halske's portable recording instruments, with batteries and stores complete.	400	For semi-permanent line.
12	Smaller instruments for flying lines, complete.	300	Further details hereafter.
	Portable tables, pigeon holes, stationery, camp stools, and other office requisites.	200	To be expended, in communication with the Store Department, at the discretion of the Officer preparing the equipment in England.
	Tools, such as axes, saws, hammers, crowbars, rammers, rope, jointing tools, &c.	100	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
5	Small tents with fittings - - -	100	For offices of flying lines, to be procured in London.
	Total probable amount of expenditure in England - - -	£4,860	

Stores and Materials for Signal Corps according to Colonel Simmons's recommendation.

Detail of the number of Mules that will probably be required.

For flying lines - - - - -	50
For semi-permanent lines :—	
Carriage of copper wire - - -	70
Ditto insulators - - - - -	13
Tools, instruments, batteries, &c. - - -	7
Office tents, &c. - - - - -	10
	150

For carriage of 10,000 bamboos it is impossible to give the details here. Arrangements must be made on the spot to reduce the requisite carriage to a minimum. Much would depend on the state of the country, and I need only remark that, unless wood is everywhere to be found on the line of march, some supports *must* be provided, and nothing lighter than bamboos can possibly be devised. Carriage would also have to be provided for the flashing light apparatus, &c., and I would beg most respectfully to remark that the employment of camels or bullocks in lieu of mules for any part of the telegraph train would, in my opinion, go far to diminish the efficiency of the equipment.

In conclusion, I would observe that, if my proposals meet with the approval of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for India in Council, I would undertake, in communication with the Director General of Stores, to arrange for the supply of all the material to be purchased in England within a month after receiving my orders. Great activity and constant attention will be required to effect this, and I would most earnestly beg that the services of Lieutenant St. John, R.E., now on leave in England, may be placed at my disposal until everything has been shipped. Lieutenant St. John's three months' privilege leave expires a week hence, but I have Colonel Goldsmith's permission to state that he could be spared from his duties in Persia for this important work. Lieutenant St. John has been constantly engaged during the past four years on the telegraph between Teheran and Bushire. He has shown himself to be an Officer of the greatest zeal and capacity, and his practical knowledge of all the minutest details of such work as that now under consideration will be of the greatest help to me. I would further suggest that Lieutenant St. John be sent out from England, in charge of the various stores; and I am sure that, were he appointed for telegraph duty with the force in Abyssinia, his recent experiences in a country not entirely dissimilar would prove very useful.

With reference to the selection of Officers and men from Chatham, for service with

the Field Telegraph Train, I would venture to urge that a letter be written without delay to the Horse Guards, desiring that steps should be taken to prepare Colonel Simmons for the probable call upon the resources of the Royal Engineer Establishment.

The Government of Bombay will, of course, be informed of the measures decided on here, and will be prepared to carry out their part of whatever plan may be adopted.

I have, &c.,

JOHN U. CHAMPAIN,
Major, R.E.

No. 191.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, September 3d, 1867.

No. 172.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request you will inform His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief that a message has been this day received from the Government of Bombay, pointing out that, with a view of preventing the possible supersession of Brigadier-General Sir C. Staveley, in the position of second in command with the Abyssinian Force, for which he has been selected, it is advisable that the local rank of Major-General, while employed upon this special service, should be conferred upon him; and I am to request that, should His Royal Highness see no objection, the necessary steps may be at once taken for that purpose.

2. Brigadier-General Malcolm, C.B., has been selected for the command of one of the divisions of the proposed force, and it will be observed that this Officer, though junior to Sir C. Staveley at present, is very near his promotion to Major-General.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 192.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 3d September 1867.

No. 39.

In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, requesting, on the recommendation of the Government and Commander-in-Chief at Bombay, that the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief may be moved to cause the necessary measures to be taken for conferring upon Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Merewether, C.B., Bombay Staff Corps, the local rank of Colonel in the East Indies, in view to his employment in Abyssinia, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, as it appears to His Royal Highness that local rank in the East Indies would be inoperative for the purpose in question, His Royal Highness purposes, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, to recommend to Her Majesty to confer the temporary rank of Colonel on Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether, whilst employed on special service in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

No. 193.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 107.

Sir,

India Office, 3d September 1867.

I have now to communicate, for the information of your Excellency's Government, the measures which have been taken in this country by the several departments of Her Majesty's Government, in furtherance of the arrangements for the expedition which it may become necessary to send into Abyssinia, to enforce the peremptory demand which you have lately been instructed to address to the Ruler of that country for the release of Her Majesty's Envoy and other prisoners unwarrantably detained by him.

No. 49.

2. You will have learned from my Military Despatch, No. 96, of the 19th ultimo, that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have designated Her Majesty's Ship "Star" to serve as a surveying vessel in the Red Sea, and have directed Commander

Bradshaw, her Commander, to proceed to Bombay, and take on board beacons and such other gear as may be necessary for marking out channels near the intended point of debarkation.

3. I have subsequently been informed by the Admiralty, under date 22d ultimo, that Commodore Heath, the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's ships at Bombay, has been directed to place himself in communication with your Excellency and with the Military authorities at Bombay, and to afford his advice and assistance, in so far as he can do so, in the preparation of the proposed expedition; and that orders have also been forwarded for the "Spiteful" and "Dryad" sloops to proceed from Rio de Janeiro to Bombay, and for two ships to be detached from the squadron in China, and sent to Bombay. No. 60.

4. On receiving, on the 23d ultimo, from the Lords Commissioners, a further memorandum from the Hydrographer to the Admiralty, a copy of which is annexed, I concurred with their Lordships in the proposal to provide in this country, and send out to Aden, temporary lights for lighting the Red Sea, between Aden and Massowah. No. 68.

5. I learn from your telegram of the 23d August, received on the 24th idem, that you are desirous of having an additional 10,000 tons of steam coal at Bombay, and the same quantity at Aden. I had already communicated on this subject with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, who, with my concurrence, have now effected an arrangement with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, under which they will place at once at your disposal at Bombay from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of coal, and they will endeavour to bring up the supply to 20,000 tons. No. 71.

6. A similar arrangement for the supply of 20,000 tons of coal at Aden, in addition to the ordinary stock, has been made with the same Company.

7. It is understood that, in consequence of a rise in the freight market, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company will charge for the whole quantity of coal required, both at Bombay and Aden, a rate in advance of that which has recently been charged.

8. I gather from the telegrams received from time to time from your Excellency, that you anticipate difficulty in providing from local resources the requisite amount of steam transport, unless you are permitted to use for the purposes of the expedition the three troop ships which have been sent out for carrying on the periodical relief of Her Majesty's European troops. I have, therefore, in consultation with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, judged it to be expedient, in anticipation of unforeseen contingencies, and to relieve you from the necessity of diverting the troop ships from their proper object, to reinforce your means of transport.

Ten steam transports, with an aggregate tonnage of about 22,000 tons, have been taken up by the Admiralty, and will be despatched to Bombay as soon as their fittings are completed, probably about the middle of this month, and they may be expected to arrive in Bombay before the end of November. They will each contain supplies and bedding, &c. for 400 soldiers, so as to be ready at once, on their arrival, for the transport of troops.

A letter from the Admiralty, dated Somerset House, 31st August, contains details of the provisions and medical comforts placed on board the steamers, with printed regulations for their issue, of which 25 copies are enclosed. No. 154.

I request that instructions may be issued by your Government, as detailed in the 5th paragraph of the letter from the Admiralty above referred to.

Captain Tryon, R.N., an experienced Officer, has been appointed by the Admiralty to superintend, under the orders of Commodore Heath, the transport arrangements in connexion with the expedition. He will proceed to India by the mail steamer of the 20th instant; he will be furnished with particulars of the stores and fittings in each ship, and, as he will arrive at Bombay six weeks before them, he will be able to afford material assistance in the arrangements for embarkation.

It is very probable that you may have already organized a transport agency for the employment of the numerous vessels which it is understood you have taken up at Bombay; but it is very important that the Transport Service should be carried on on one system, and under one authority, and that the expenditure on this service, which must be accounted for by the Admiralty, should be regulated by the established rules of that Department.

I have, therefore, concurred in the appointment of Captain Tryon, and would suggest to your Government that it would be proper to avail yourselves of the assistance and co-operation of the Naval authorities, by placing the entire arrangements for the Transport Service under the direction of this Officer. Instructions will be issued by the

Admiralty to Commodore Heath to co-operate cordially with your Government, and I feel confident that, by the maintenance of a good understanding between the Naval and Military Officers, this important part of the service will be conducted in the most effectual manner.

Three steam vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 6,992 tons, have also been taken up by the Admiralty, and fitted as hospital ships. They will be furnished with appropriate stores, and Medical Officers of Her Majesty's army will be appointed to go out in them.

A detail of the establishment which it is intended to place in these vessels will be found in the enclosed letter, dated 31st August, from the War Office.

No. 155.

No. 20.

9. I have taken measures for supplying the various articles of clothing and provisions enumerated in your telegram of the 9th August. A portion of these, as detailed in the annexed list, will be sent direct to Bombay in the steam transports which have been taken up by the Admiralty. A further portion, as detailed in a second list, will be placed in the hospital ships which will be sent to Aden; and the remainder will be transmitted, as soon as they can be got ready, through Egypt. The lists above referred to must be understood to be approximately correct, but more particular invoices of the stores will be transmitted to you by a future mail. In the telegram above referred to, you also requested to be supplied with 500 tons of compressed hay. This material is not kept in stock by the trade in this country, and the whole quantity required cannot, therefore, be delivered in time to be despatched to Bombay in the steam transports. The forage supplied will consist partly of compressed hay and partly of compressed oats and clover.

No. 81.

10. Having ascertained by your telegram of the 25th August, that you were desirous of being supplied with as many mules as can be got ready at Suez before the end of November, measures have been taken by the War Office to collect, in the countries bordering the Mediterranean, as many mules, not exceeding 7,000, as can be delivered at Suez by the time specified.

The collection of the mules, their maintenance in Egypt, and their conveyance to Suez, in order to their embarkation, will be arranged by officers appointed by the War Office; but it will rest with your Government to provide vessels at Suez for the transport of the animals to their destination, and I request that the Commander of these vessels, or the Officer whom you may send in charge of them, may be directed to report immediately on arriving at Suez, to the Transport Agent of the Indian Government, who has been directed, in communication with the Officer in charge of the Mule Depot, to take immediate measures for embarking the mules, with a proper proportion of stable equipments, spare shoes, &c.

I assume that the mule drivers to be employed in the expedition will be natives of India or the adjoining countries, and it is desirable that you should send some of these to Suez, to receive charge of the mules from the European or Egyptian attendants who will have accompanied them thither.

The vessels which you will send for this purpose will, of course, be fitted for the accommodation of the animals, and will convey a sufficient quantity of fodder and water.

No. 106.

You have been informed by my telegram of the 28th ultimo, that the mules will begin to arrive at Suez in October, and, when further information may reach me, I will communicate to you, from time to time, the probable number of these animals for which it will be necessary to provide transport, and the probable dates on which they will be ready for embarkation.

11. Having ascertained that a limited supply of equipments for mules is available in the Government Arsenal, I have requested the Secretary of State for War to cause the under-mentioned articles to be prepared for despatch, viz. :—

5,000 pack-saddles for mules.

1,800 sets of wheel harness.

900 pairs of short traces.

400 whips, service, short.

12. Acting on the suggestions put forward by Sir Robert Napier in his memorandum dated 22d July, I have arranged for the supply of 400 light Maltese carts, now in store in the Arsenal at Woolwich. Such of these, together with the articles enumerated in the preceding paragraph, as can be got ready in time, will be despatched in the steam transports to Bombay or Aden; the remainder will be forwarded by way of Egypt. The exact time and mode of despatch will hereafter be communicated to you, in order that you may arrange to bring them on from Suez, and deposit them where they may be required.

In accordance with your requisitions received by telegraph, I have arranged with the Secretary of State for War for the provision of

4,000 breech-loading Snider rifles for Infantry.

200 breech-loading carbines for Cavalry.

800 " " " for Artillery.

with 2,500,000 rounds of ball ammunition and 8,000* rounds of blank ammunition. These will be despatched in the transport steamers to Bombay.

You will be able to obtain from the regiments proceeding to India during the present season, in ordinary relief, such non-commissioned officers and soldiers as may be required to aid in the instruction of the corps proceeding upon this service in the use of the new weapon. I shall arrange with the War Department for the provision of the requisite number of armourers acquainted with the mechanism of the Snider rifle.

13. Sir Robert Napier, in his preliminary sketch of the plan of operations, appears to have contemplated the employment of four field batteries and a mountain battery, but it is possible that, when the line of advance into the interior of the country has been definitely decided upon, after receipt of fuller information, the proportions of the two descriptions of artillery may require modification. In consideration of the known and unknown difficulties of the country, and the absence everywhere of wheel tracks, and of the uncertainty as to how far the mountain batteries now in India may be suitable and available, I thought it advisable to have in readiness, in case of need, an additional number of guns capable of being carried, with their equipments, on the backs of animals. Orders were, therefore, given by the War Department to prepare two batteries, each of six rifled steel 7-pounder mountain guns, with steel carriages, on a pattern recently adopted by the Ordnance Select Committee, which is believed to combine lightness and efficiency in a degree not hitherto obtained. The batteries will be provided with the requisite stores and pack-saddles, and with 500 rounds of ammunition per gun.

I forward, as an enclosure to this Despatch, for your information, a memorandum, giving a description of the equipment proposed, with a statement of the weight of every article. Since these arrangements were made, I have learned by your telegram of the 27th August, that Sir Robert Napier wishes to be provided with one additional mountain battery. Both batteries, with their equipments, will be ready for despatch in the beginning of November, but one only shall then be sent out (*via* Egypt), unless in the interim I am informed by telegraph that your Government is likely to require both. No. 92.

Orders have also been given for the preparation of 300 Hale's (6-lb.) war rockets, which are very portable, and capable of being used without special apparatus. These will be despatched with the mountain batteries, unless countermanded by you.

Three young Officers of Royal Artillery, with a detail of non-commissioned officers and privates, will be sent to Woolwich during the preparation of these equipments, for the purpose of learning the method of packing and loading the several parts of the batteries, and the use of the rockets, and they will proceed in charge of them when they are despatched for service in Abyssinia.

On your requisition for patent yeast, sufficient to make bread for 4,000 men for six months, I caused inquiries to be made, and am informed that no patent yeast, which can be relied upon to keep good for any lengthened period, is obtainable. I have therefore provided, for despatch to Bombay on one of the steam transports,—

3,600 lbs. malt,

500 lbs. hops,

with printed directions attached to each package for the preparation of yeast from these materials.

I have also provided 5,000 small portable filters for the use of the European soldiers.

14. Having learned by your telegraphic message, in reply to my inquiry, that you were desirous of being supplied with a field telegraph, I have given directions for the provision of the requisite instruments and material, which will be despatched by way of Egypt, so as to reach Massowa early in December. No. 128.

Lieutenant St. John, R.E., of the Persian Telegraph Establishment, now on leave in this country, will assist in the preparation of the stores, and will proceed in charge of them to Massowa; he will be accompanied by a detachment of Royal Engineer soldiers, instructed in the method of setting up the wires and trained to the use of the instruments.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

* This was a clerical error for 20,800 rounds.

Enclosure 1 in No. 193.

Memorandum of Stores under preparation for Abyssinia. No. 1.

India Store Department, 3d September 1867.

Stores.	Quantities.	Shipped for Bombay by Steam Transport, and Name of Ship.	Shipped for Aden by Steam Hospital Ship, and Name of Ship.	Remarks.
Blue serge banyans -	No. 4,000	"England."		
Flannel shirts -	4,000			
Neck comforters -	4,000			
Jersey shirts -	4,000			
Worsted stockings -	4,000			
Nightcaps -	4,000			
Gloves -	4,000			
Great coats -	500	"Queen."		
Blankets -	12,000			
Boots -	12,000	"England."		
Spare boot laces -	12,000			
Salt beef -	Lbs. 70,000	"City of Manchester"	- - -	100 lbs. in excess of demand.
" pork -	35,100			
Preserved potatoes -	15,000	- - -	"Mauritius," most probably, as a great portion are already in store.	
Compressed vegetables -	15,000	- - -	1,400 lbs. "Mauritius."	
Desiccated milk -	Doz. 50	- - -	Ditto.	
Essence of beef -	½ pints. 100	"City of Manchester."		
Compressed forage -	Tons. 500	About 100 tons, "England."	About 150 tons, "Golden Fleece."	
Waterproof sheets -	No. 30,000	12,000 "Queen," 7,000 "England."	Remainder per "Mauritius," or "Queen of the South," probably.	
Perkins's portable ovens -	2	1 per "Queen," 1 per "England."		
Portable cooking range -	12	- - -	- - -	On Warren's principle, each to cook for 100 men. To be ready in October.
Waterproof covers -	2,100	1,350, "England"	- - -	100 in excess of demand.
Bell tents } with spare Hospital tents } poles, &c.	1,000 50	"Queen."		
Yeast { malt - { hops -	Lbs. 3,600 500	- - -	- - -	"Mauritius," or "Queen of the South," probably.
	No. 5,000			
Filters, portable -		- - -	- - -	100 "Golden Fleece." 100 "Mauritius."
Carts, Maltese -	400			
Grease for Maltese carts -	Lbs. 2,800	- - -	- - -	"Golden Fleece."
Pack-saddles -	No. 5,000	- - -	- - -	150, "Golden Fleece." 249, "Mauritius."
Harness -	Sets. 1,800	- - -	- - -	204, "Golden Fleece." 198, "Mauritius."
Traces, short -	Pairs. 900	- - -	- - -	102, "Golden Fleece." 99, "Mauritius."
Whips -	400	- - -	- - -	34, "Golden Fleece." 33, "Mauritius."
Rifles, Snider, Infantry -	4,000	2,000, "Queen," 2,114 "England."	- - -	114 in excess of demand, being the usual proportion for ser-jeants.

Stores.	Quantities.	Shipped for Bombay by Steam Transport, and Name of Ship.	Shipped for Aden by Steam Hospital Ship, and Name of Ship.	Remarks.
Carbines, Cavalry, Snider -	200	"England."		
" Artillery do. -	800	"Queen."		
S. A. material for repair of above.	-	"England."		
Cartridges, Snider, ball -	2,500,000	$\frac{1}{2}$ per "Queen," $\frac{1}{2}$ per "England."		
" " blank -	20,800	"Queen" or "England."		
Forges - " -	6*	} *3 per "England."		For repair, &c., of Snider arms.
Tools, Armourer's -	6			
Mountain batteries -	1			
			"Queen of the South," if ready in time.	

GERALD C. TALBOT,
Director General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 193.

Memorandum.

Woolwich, 3d September 1867.

The following is a general outline of the equipment and weights of the two 7-pounder rifled mountain batteries preparing at Woolwich.

Some alterations in details must be expected before they are completed, but correct printed lists, and photographs of each animal *packed*, will be prepared when the loads are finally adjusted, and the carriages have had a thorough trial at Shoeburyness.

Everything will be ready by the first week in October.

Guns are of steel, of 155 lbs. weight. They are very lively, but, by lashing the wheels, and using other precautions, can be kept within reasonable limits of recoil. New range tables must be prepared, as those originally sent to India were based on results obtained from large grained powder, which has since been found quite unsuited for such small pieces, causing a loss of range of 1,000 yards as compared with charges of rifled F. G. powder.

Sir William Mansfield, in his report from Darjeeling of March 1867, points to this defect, and it would be as well that his Excellency should have an early opportunity of inspecting the latest table of practice with this small gun; a copy is therefore (in duplicate) enclosed. The practice will be repeated on Thursday next, for verification.

Ammunition, shot and shell. The transport of the ammunition has been arranged in accordance with the plan suggested in the above report, the boxes being a few pounds heavier than those at Darjeeling, to admit of additional strength for the increased weight of projectile.

Each box can easily be carried by a gunner.

Carriages are of steel, weighing about 180 lbs.

They have already proved their strength, but further practice will be made with them.

Each travels on one mule, *complete*, thus effecting a saving of six mules per battery.

They admit of 30° elevation for vertical firing. As it is not intended to use them in draft, no shafts or harness have been provided.

Six rocket mules per battery have been added to the train, carrying 240 6-pounder rockets, with tubes.

For abstract of mules required, see further on.

Table A.

General List of Stores for two 7-pounder Mountain Batteries preparing for Abyssinia (including Reserve Ammunition).

Woolwich, August 1867.

Guns, Carriages, Laboratory, and Transport Stores.	For Two Batteries.	Where carried.
Boxes, wooden, ammunition -	36	1 ammunition box and 4 shot and shell boxes, containing 20 rounds, on each mule. <i>Proportion</i> —3 ammunition mules per gun, 60 rounds per gun = 360 per battery.
" " shot and shell -	144	
" " small store -	12	1 between the brackets of each carriage.
" " miscellaneous, stores -	4	On 2 mules.
" tin, fuze (10 fuzes each) -	72	In the 36 ammunition boxes, 2 in each.
Caps, sponge -	24	On the sponges.
Carriages, steel, mountain, for mule transport -	14	On 12 mules, 2 spare in reserve.
Carriers, axle-tree arm, for wheels (spare) -	—	In 4 miscellaneous boxes,

Guns, Carriages, Laboratory, and Transport Stores.	For Two Batteries.	Where carried.
Cartouches, canvas - - - -	72	In 36 ammunition boxes, 2 in each.
Cartridges, filled, flannel, 6 oz. rifled field gun powder - - - -	6,000	720 in 36 ammunition boxes, 5,280 reserve.
Cylinders, zinc, for tubes (50 in each) - - - -	144	2 in each small store box, 120 reserve.
Forges, portable, complete - - - -	2	On 2 mules.
Fuzes, wood, time, Boxer, 10 seconds (special) - -	5,760	720 in 36 ammunition boxes, 5,040 reserve.
Hammers, claw, small - - - -	4	1 in each miscellaneous box.
Implements, fuze and shell :—		
Bags, canvas, for { wood cylinders - - - -	24	2
hook boxes - - - -	24	2
Bits, hook, borer - - - -	144	12
Cylinders, wood - - - -	24	2
Extractors, fuze, small - - - -	12	1
Handles, hook borer - - - -	24	2
Hooks - - - -	48	4
Instructions, printed, sets - - - -	24	2
Keys, iron, common, plug - - - -	12	1
Irons, pruning, sets (field service) - - - -	—	In the proportion allowed to field batteries.
Keys for spring locks - - - -	16	4 in each miscellaneous box.
Knives, clasp - - - -	36	2 in each small store box.
Lanyards, friction tube - - - -	4	3 spare in each miscellaneous box.
Line, Hambro' (skeins) - - - -	12	1 " " "
Ordnance steel gun, 7-pounder - - - -	4	On 12 mules.
Pincers, complete, small - - - -	12	1 in each miscellaneous box.
Pins, linch (spare) - - - -	12	3 " " " "
Pockets, tube, leather - - - -	12	1 in each small store box.
Scales, tangent, steel (spare) - - - -	12	3 in each miscellaneous box.
" " wood - - - -	4	1 " " " "
Scissors, laboratory, small - - - -	64	Vide abstract of pack mules.
Saddles, pack, mule, complete - - - -	2,400	288 in 72 shot and shell boxes, 2,112 reserve.
Shells, common, 7-pounder, filled and plugged -	2,400	288 " " " " 2,112 "
" shrapnel, " (Boxer) " - - - -	1,200	144 " " " " 912 "
Shot case, 7-pounder - - - -	4	1 in each miscellaneous box.
Spanners, M'Mahon, small - - - -	12	1 in each small store box.
Spikes, common - - - -	24	2 with each gun.
Sponges with staves, 7-pounder - - - -	12	1 in each small store box.
Straps, leather, tube, pocket - - - -	7,200	100 in each small store box, 6,000 reserve.
Tubes, friction, copper (special) - - - -	12	1 in each small store box.
Wrenches, sight - - - -	4	1 to every 3 guns.
Wad hooks - - - -		
Rocket equipment for 12 mules :—		
Rockets, war, Hale (6-pounders) - - - -	300	240 on 12 mules, 60 reserve.
Panniers, leather, pairs - - - -	6	On 12 mules.
Tubes, rocket - - - -	12	
" detonating (in cylinders) - - - -	500	
Saddles, pack, mule, complete - - - -	12	

Table B.

List of the component parts of Mountain Train Saddles and Equipment, with weights.

	Lbs.	
1 Bridle, bat horse - - - -	18	Every endeavour is being made to render the saddles throughout interchangeable, and to do away as far as possible with lashings.
1 Breeching, crupper, and 3 straps - - - -		
1 Breast collar and 2 straps - - - -		
1 Tarpaulin, 6 ft. x 4 ft. - - - -		
2 Girths and 4 straps - - - -		
1 Wantie or surcingle - - - -		
2 Lashings, rope - - - -		
Estimated weight of saddle with pannels and ladders, when ready - - - -	36	
Total - - - -	54	

Loads of the different Pack Mules.

<i>The Gun Mule.</i>		Lbs.	<i>Carriage Mule.</i>		Lbs.
1 Gun, steel 7-pounder, rifled, about -	-	155	1 Carriage, steel, wheels wood, "Pedowk" -	-	180
2 Sponges with staves -	-	5	1 Box, small store, with contents, about -	-	8
Probably a pick axe and 2 bill hooks -	-	10	Saddle, complete (Table B.) -	-	54
Saddle, complete (Table B.) -	-	54			
Total -	-	224	Total -	-	242
<i>Ammunition Mule.</i>			<i>Miscellaneous Stores Mule.</i>		
1 Box, wooden, ammunition, about -	-	10			
Contents:—			2 Boxes, wooden, miscellaneous -	-	48
2 boxes, tin, 10 fuzes each -	-		These boxes will contain spare stores,		
2 cartouches, canvas -	-		gunners' instruments (as per list), some		
20 cartridges, 6 oz. (rifled field gun powder) -	-	11	additional tools for saddlers and collar		
20 fuzes -	-		makers, with a small quantity of materials		
4 Boxes, wooden, shot and shell (probably) -	-	48	for ordinary repairs; also a spare elve-		
Contents:—			vating screw per battery—weight about	-	130
8 shells, common, filled and plugged -	-	58	Saddle, complete -	-	54
8 shrapnel, filled and plugged -	-	59			
4 shot, case -	-	21	Total -	-	232
Saddle, complete (Table B.) -	-	54			
Total -	-	261			
<i>Note.</i> —This load can at any time be reduced, by taking out a portion of the rounds.			<i>Load for Rocket Mules.</i>		
<i>Load for Portable Forge Mule.</i>			20 Rockets, Hale, 6-pounder -	-	120
Forge 59 lbs., bellows, 36 lbs. -	-	95	1 Pannier, leather, pairs -	-	46
Box for tools -	-	12	1 Portable rocket tube, in 2 pieces, perhaps	-	20
Poker, &c. -	-	4	Detonating tubes.		
Anvil 56 lbs., and block 33 lbs. -	-	89	Saddle, complete (Table B.) -	-	54
Hammer, sledge -	-	7			
Saddle, complete (Table B.) -	-	54	Total -	-	240
Total -	-	261			
These need not be always up with the battery, and probably one would be sufficient for both batteries if together.					

Reserve Ammunition and Carriages, packed.

2 Carriages, steel, spare -	-	-	Do not accompany the batteries.
5,280 Cartridges, flannel, filled, 6 oz. -	-	-	In metal lined half cases.
5,040 Fuzes, wood, time (Boxer), 10 seconds -	-	-	
2,112 Shells, common, 7-pounder -	-	-	In ordinary wooden cases, with grummet handles.
2,112 " shrapnel " -	-	-	
912 Shot, case -	-	-	
6,000 Tubes, friction (special) -	-	-	No packet to exceed 90 lbs.
60 Rockets, Hale, war -	-	-	

Packing for Transport overland.

12 guns, each in its own case.		12 small store boxes, in 2 cases.
14 carriages " "		2 portable forges, with saddles, in 2 cases.
144 wooden shot and shell boxes, in 72 skeleton cases.		62 pack-saddles, in 31 cases.
36 " ammunition " " 9 "		
4 " miscellaneous " " 4 "		

Abstract of Pack Mules for two Batteries, without Reserves.

	Mules.
For 12 guns -	12
" 12 carriages -	12
" ammunition -	36
" miscellaneous -	2
" portable forges -	2
	64
For 240 rockets -	12
Total -	80
Spare, should be -	4
Grand Total -	84

No. 194.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, Somerset House, 3d September 1867.
With reference to a letter from Major-General Baker, dated the 30th ultimo, I request that you will be pleased to cause directions to be given to Captain Johnson (the India Office Agent in Egypt) to assist Captain Willoughby, R.N., in the arrangement for the transport of stores across Egypt, on account of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDS.

No. 195.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

No. 138. Sir, War Office, 3d September 1867.
In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, I am desired by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that the Military Store Officers at the Tower and Woolwich have been instructed that all stores required for the Abyssinian expedition will be shipped through the agency of your Department.

To save time, they will communicate particulars as to tonnage to you.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 196.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 3d September 1867.
I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for India in Council that Sir Henry James, the Director of the Topographical Department, has suggested that the expedition to Abyssinia should be accompanied by a small topographical staff, for the purpose of making maps of the country; and recommends that Captain Carey should be employed on this duty.

Sir Henry James further suggests, that three or four Sappers, one of whom should be a photographer, should be sent as assistants to Captain Carey.

If this proposal be approved of, Sir Henry James will select the instruments which the party will require, and purchase bullock trunks for their safe transport.

Sir J. Pakington will be glad to receive Sir Stafford Northcote's opinion and wishes upon this proposition.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 197.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 3d September 1867.
I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit the enclosed letters from Messrs. Mosses and Mitchell, relative to the conveyance of mules and stores for the Abyssinian expedition by the Isthmus of Suez Canal Company, and I am to request that you will move Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote to cause inquiry to be made by telegraph whether the Suez Canal route, and Port Said Harbour, are practicable.

I am, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 197.

Messrs. MOSSES and MITCHELL to the Under Secretary of State for War.

My Lord,

55, Gracechurch Street, 3d September 1867.

We duly received your Lordship's letter of the 2d instant, and are since in receipt of a communication from the English Director of the Suez Canal, which we now beg to enclose.

With regard to the harbour of Port Said, we have the honour to inform your Lordship that there is now in course of construction there a jetty 2,500 yards long, at the extreme end of which 28 to 29 feet water is found. This jetty has now 2,300 yards or thereabouts completed, and at that distance the depth of water is 26 feet.

The steamers of the Messageries Impériales Company of France have absolutely entered the outer basin of the port. The inner basin contains 16 feet of water, and the commercial basin 17 feet. Since the commencement of the undertaking, 3,511 ships, in the aggregate 664,000 tons, have discharged their cargoes at Port Said. At the present time there are no less than 20 steamers per month to and from the port; and, for further information upon the subject, we respectfully crave your Lordship's attention to the "London Shipping and Mercantile Gazette" of the 15th ultimo, and the Company's published report, copies of which accompany this letter.

We omitted mentioning to you in our respects of the 31st ultimo, that we should be willing to enter into a contract for the conveyance of stores at 32s. 6d. per ton weight or measurement.

We have, &c.,

MOSSES & MITCHELL.

Enclosure 2 in No. 197.

Mr. LANGE to Messrs. MOSSES & MITCHELL.

Dear Sir,

21, Regent Street, London, 3d September 1867.

In reply to your inquiries, I beg to inform you that the Suez Canal Company have no longer any local agent at Alexandria.

All matters are arranged in Paris, and, if it is an object with the Government to save time, that object would not be attained by leaving negotiations open until the arrival of Colonel Kennedy at Alexandria, which might be referred to you, as the accredited transit agents in London.

I remain, &c.,

DANIEL A. LANGE, Director of the
Suez Canal Company.

No. 198.

Telegram from the Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In reply to
No. 117.

Alexandria, September 4, 1867.

Permission to lay down telegraph between Souakin and Massowah is granted by Viceroy to British.

No. 199.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

Foreign Office, September 4, 1867.

Telegram dated yesterday from Constantinople says, that the British Embassy has received news of the release of the Abyssinian captives, at the intercession of the Armenian Patriarch. Have you received such news, and if so, why have you not sent it on? Send immediately full account by telegraph of what has reached you.

No. 200.

Telegram from the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Foreign Office, September 4, 1867.

Have you received a report of the release of the Abyssinian prisoners at the intercession of Armenian Patriarch? There is a report from Constantinople to that effect.

No. 201.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, September 4th, 1867.

No. 177. I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, forwarding letter from Sir John M'Neill, suggesting the construction of a light railway in connexion with the advance of the force preparing for operations in Abyssinia.

2. In reply, I am desired to state that Sir Stafford Northcote is not at present disposed to authorize the adoption of any measures in this country for the provision of railway material for the above purposes, but proposes to call the attention of the Government of Bombay to the suggestion, and to obtain an expression of their views by telegram.

3. It is not improbable that the subject may have already engaged their attention.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 202.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir, India Office, 4th September 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the transport ships taken up in this country for employment in connexion with the expedition to Abyssinia, I am desired by Sir Stafford Northcote to request the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will be good enough to issue instructions for the employment of one more vessel for the same purpose, of about 2,000 tons burden.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 203.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 4th, 1867.

It is very doubtful whether the untrained mules to be obtained in Europe will be useful. Do you wish us to go on collecting at the present expensive rate?

No. 204.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 4th, 1867.

Send twenty lacs in crowns and gold, which are required at Aden by the first opportunity, and cease to draw bills on Bombay.

No. 205.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 4th, 1867.

In reply to
No. 144.

As soon as the reconnoitring party is landed, our own steamer the "Coromandel," 1,000 tons, fit for mules, proceeds from Massowah to Suez; and she will be followed by the "Canning," 1,200. We have chartered the "Great Victoria," 2,800 tons, for the same duty, and I hope also the "Samanood," Egyptian steamer, 2,300, now at Suez. The "Desohzai," Egyptian, 1,062, and "Lagoje," 800, are also at Suez. Tell me beforehand when the transports will be wanted. I do not like limiting the number of mules which you can send, lest the supply should fail from Bushire, but I have not reckoned on so many. Send all you can; both mountain trains are wanted; send pack-saddles for all your mules.

No. 206.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

My Lord,

Treasury Chambers, 4th September 1867.

With reference to recent correspondence on the subject of the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia, I am desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed pamphlet* which has been forwarded to this Board by Dr. Beke, and of which the portion marked (pages 24 to 29) relate to the victualling of a British Army in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.,

G. A. HAMILTON.

No. 207.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 4th September 1867.

In reference to your letter, dated 30th August, I am instructed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that it is proposed to send six sets of special tools, and six Dodd's forges, fitted with proportion of spare parts, to Bombay for service of the Abyssinian expedition. No. 137.

Sir John Pakington would be glad to know if Sir Stafford Northcote concurs in this arrangement.

I have, &c.,

LONGFORD.

No. 208.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 4th September 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 3d instant, I beg to acquaint you that arrangements have already been made for the shipment of the rifles therein mentioned, as well as the ammunition, in the transports "Queen" and "England," for conveyance to India, upon a requisition received from the Director General of India Stores of the 2d instant; and that it was intimated in such requisition that they would be despatched "to Liverpool by railway for shipment;" it is desirable, therefore, that it be clearly understood that no steps will be taken by this department for conveying them to Liverpool. No. 187.

I have, &c.,

W. R. MENDS.

P. S.—The Director of Transports of the Admiralty and the Director of Stores of the India Office have been placed in direct communication, in relation to this special service, by the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Admiralty.

No. 209.

The Assistant Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 4th September 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence, relative to the organization of the expedition for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to request that you will acquaint the Secretary of State for India in Council that His Royal Highness is very desirous of being informed, as soon as possible, what regiments have been selected for the service in question, His Royal Highness deeming it very desirable that any officers on leave from those corps should be sent back to India in the steam

* Letters to the Foreign Office and Board of Trade, respecting the Commerce and Politics of Abyssinia, by Dr. Beke, 1861.

transports, and that arrangements should be made to complete such regiments, as far as possible, before they proceed on service.

I have, &c.,

E. B. JOHNSON, Colonel,
for Military Secretary.

No. 210.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 4th, 1867.

Which of the British regiments have been selected for service in Abyssinia?

No. 211.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 4th September 1867.

No. 156.

With reference to the letter from this Office of the 31st ultimo, enclosing a printed programme and instructions on the subject of the supply of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, together with a list of the Officers who have been appointed to this duty, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that the following is the list of the establishment of Officers and men of the Military Train and Commissariat Department appointed to assist Colonel J. Clark Kennedy, C.B., in Egypt, viz.,—

Military Train.

Brigade-Major Shervinton and 7 Officers.
26 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

Commissariat Staff.

Alexandria, Assistant Commissary-General Robinson.
Suez, Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Stanes.

Also a Veterinary Surgeon, not yet named.

I am, at the same time, to transmit to you, for the information of Sir Stafford Northcote, the accompanying copy of the letter of instructions furnished to Colonel Kennedy.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 211.

The Under Secretary of State for War to Colonel J. CLARK KENNEDY, C.B.

Sir,

War Office, 30th August 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that, in furtherance of the arrangements connected with the Abyssinian expedition, Her Majesty's Government have, at the request of the Secretary of State for India in Council, undertaken to purchase as many mules as can be obtained, not exceeding 7,000, to land them at Alexandria, and to hand them over to the Agents of the Indian Government at Suez, by the middle of November.

The accompanying printed copy of a Memorandum, with its Enclosure, will explain to you the arrangements proposed for carrying out this service.

Sir John Pakington, with the concurrence of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, has selected you to take the general direction of this service, and the Officers and parties employed have received instructions to report to you on all occasions.

Her Majesty's Ministers and Consuls have been informed of the intended purchase of mules, and have been requested to co-operate with you and with the Officers under your command.

I am accordingly to instruct you to proceed at once to Alexandria, and to make the necessary arrangements for carrying out the intentions of the Government, and to provide for the maintenance of the mules during the time that they may necessarily remain in Egypt.

The first cargo may be expected to arrive at Alexandria at the end of September. Seven steam transports, of about 1,000 tons each, fitted for the accommodation of the mules, and provided with adequate arrangements for embarking, and landing them at Alexandria, have been detailed for this service.

A Naval Officer, as Admiralty Agent, and a Veterinary Surgeon, with two Assistants from the Military Train, will be on board each vessel. These vessels are to proceed to the various ports, for the purpose of picking up the mules, as they are there delivered, and taking them to Alexandria.

The first three of these will take full cargoes of compressed forage direct to Alexandria and land them there, each ship retaining, however, sufficient on board for the number of mules it will collect on its next voyage.

All these vessels, on arrival at Alexandria, will be placed at your disposal to send to ports where mules may be ready for embarkation.

On account of the uncertainty of the arrival of the shipping at Suez to remove the mules, it will be necessary for you to establish for their reception two depôts, one at Alexandria and one at Suez, that at Suez being the main one, and to hire storage for the deposit of any stores which may be sent with the mules or which may be consigned to you.

You will provide for the transit of the mules between Alexandria and Suez, and you will understand that part of the journey between those two places may probably have to be performed by the mules on foot.

On your arrival at Alexandria you will place yourself in communication with the Acting Consul-General, who will have been instructed to assist you in your arrangements, in the necessary communication with the Government of Egypt, and in any other manner in his power.

A small staff of Officers and men of the Military Train and Commissariat Department will be appointed to assist you.

The Officer of the Commissariat Department will be charged with all financial duties.

Colonel Ross, Deputy Quartermaster-General, has been instructed to afford the assistance of the Quartermaster-General's Department in the service on which you are employed, but it will be necessary that you should avoid any interference with, or interruption of, the relief service of troops through Egypt which is now about to be introduced.

You will also keep yourself in communication with the Senior Naval Officer, and with Captain Willoughby, R.N., Agent in Egypt for the Government of India.

As regards attendants for the mules, you will observe that the Officers purchasing them have been instructed to hire attendants, on the understanding that they are to accompany the mules to Alexandria and remain in Egypt if required.

It will be within your discretion to hire additional assistance in all Departments when necessary.

You will communicate with the Governors of Malta and Gibraltar as occasion may require, and report, by all opportunities, to the Secretary of State for War and to the Quartermaster-General, for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 211.

Expedition to Abyssinia.

Revised Arrangements for the Provision of Mules and Equipment connected therewith, to be landed at Alexandria and delivered to the Agents of the Indian Government at Suez by the middle of November 1867, and for their transit through Egypt.

1. The general direction of the arrangements is placed under Colonel Kennedy, C.B., at Alexandria, who will make full arrangements for the landing and maintenance and transit of the mules, and for delivering them over to the Indian Government at Suez. This Officer will receive his pay, and 3*l.* 3*s.* a day in lieu of all allowances.

He will be assisted by a dépôt establishment of the Military Train, and by two Commissariat Officers to make all necessary arrangements for foraging and maintaining the mules at the depôts; one will be stationed at a dépôt to be formed at Alexandria, and the other at a dépôt to be formed at Suez. Such subordinates of the Commissariat Staff Corps as may be necessary will be attached to each Commissariat Officer. A veterinary surgeon will be attached to the dépôt establishment.

These Officers will receive their pay, and, in consequence of the special and temporary nature of the service, they will receive 1*l.* 10*s.* a day in lieu of all allowances.

2. The General Officer commanding at Gibraltar has been requested to cause mules to be purchased in the vicinity of Gibraltar, Cadiz, and Malaga.

The General Officer commanding at Malta has been requested to cause mules to be purchased in the islands, and in the vicinity of Tunis or elsewhere.

A veterinary surgeon will be sent to each of these stations to examine and pass the mules purchased.

Officers detached from the station upon this duty, not exceeding two at each station, will continue to draw the pay and allowances they are in receipt of, and 2*l.* 2*s.* a day whilst so employed, to cover remuneration and hotel expenses.

3. The following places are also selected as *foci* for the purchase of mules; they may be altered, or added to, as circumstances appear to require:—

1. Alicante.
2. Valentia.
3. { Barcelona.
Majorca. } Sub-depôts to Barcelona.
Minorca. }
4. Genoa.
5. Smyrna.
6. Scanderoon.
7. { Tyre.
Sidon. }
Beyrout.
8. Constantinople.

An Officer of the Military Train or Artillery to look out for and select mules will proceed to each of these *foci*; he will be accompanied by a veterinary surgeon.

A Commissariat Officer will also proceed to each of these *foci*, who will draw bills on the Treasury—under the Treasury regulations—for paying for the mules, and for superintending the necessary subsidiary arrangements for foraging and keeping them till their embarkation, and hiring the necessary attendants. The bills to be countersigned by the Military Officer, or, in his absence, by a Consular Officer, the name and signature of the countersigning Officer to be communicated to the Postmaster General.

These Officers will be under the orders of the Officer at Alexandria, and will keep him informed of their proceedings.

No mules are to be purchased after the 31st October.

Instructions to the Officers are appended. They will be furnished with passports and circular letters of recommendation from the Foreign Office to the Consuls in the Mediterranean ports.

The service of purchasing mules being temporary and special, and subject to considerable expense, the Officers will receive 3*l.* 3*s.* a day to cover remuneration and hotel expenses, in addition to the pay of their rank.

Claims for travelling and other disbursements will be sent in on the usual forms.

Each Officer proceeding to Italy and Spain will receive an imprest of 50*l.* before leaving England; and each Officer going to the Levant 100*l.*

4. Seven steamers for removing the mules have been chartered by the Admiralty, and will be despatched to the several ports for embarking mules according to the orders of the Officer at Alexandria.

They will be provided with compressed forage, or hay, as a reserve (to be used only in case the supply shipped with the mules should run short), for the mules on the voyage, and will take out a supply of halters for the use of the mules on board; they will also take out and deposit such spare halters as may be put on board at Alexandria for the use of the mules in transit, which will be consigned to the Commissariat Officers. The arrangements for providing forage for use of the mules on board are, that 21 days' supply for each mule should be shipped from the ports in Spain and Italy, and 14 days' from the Levant.

The ships are to be fitted with steam hoists for embarkation.

A veterinary surgeon will be on board each ship to receive the mules and look after them on the voyage, and hand them over to the Officer in charge at Alexandria. He will have such assistance to issue the forage and articles of equipment as the Officer in charge at Alexandria may direct. These Officers will receive 1*l.* 1*s.* a day in addition to their pay whilst on board ship.

LONGFORD.

War Office,
29th August 1867.

Revised Instructions to the Officers to be employed in purchasing the Mules for the Expedition to Abyssinia.

Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., at Alexandria, will direct the entire service, and his instructions are to be taken on all points.

The Military Officers will be each accompanied by a Commissariat Officer and a Veterinary Surgeon. An Interpreter may be engaged when necessary.

Instructions to the Military Officers.

1. They will purchase, in conjunction with the Commissariat Officer, serviceable mules for the British Government, not less than four years old, with bridles, and two sets of spare shoes, if possible. The mules to be inspected and passed by the Veterinary Surgeon.

They, with the concurrence of the Commissariat Officers, are also authorized to employ the Consuls or other persons to purchase mules, and to allow such commission, either at a fixed sum or otherwise, not exceeding five per cent. on approved purchases, as may be agreed upon. Every animal to be branded on one hoof and on the flank as soon as possible after purchase.

2. The mules to be shipped to Alexandria in steamers which have been chartered by the Admiralty for the purpose.

3. The British Consuls at all ports have been instructed to render all assistance.

4. Attendants must be engaged by the Commissariat Officers to take charge of the mules to Alexandria, and remain with them one month in Egypt if required; not exceeding one attendant to eight animals. They will be provided with free passage home.

5. Reports on the form herewith, are to be made, at very frequent intervals, to Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., especially of the number of animals provided, and attendants hired, to enable him to send steamers to bring the animals to the *dépôt* at Alexandria. Reports by telegraph are to be made when necessary.

Duplicates of the reports as to the number of mules and attendants hired are to be sent to the War Office, for the information of the Secretary of State for War.

6. The utmost exertions will be required to procure the required number of animals by 31st October, after which date no purchases are to be made.

The Officers are at liberty to move to any other neighbouring places where a better supply of animals may be expected.

Instructions to the Commissariat Officers.

1. They will consult with the Consuls as to the best means of obtaining tenders for the supply of the mules, and they will accept such tenders and make such purchases as may be advisable, taking the opinion of the Military Officers acting with them, who will signify their concurrence on the schedules or tenders, and will certify to the vouchers for direct purchases.

2. The ages and sizes of the mules should be stated in the tenders and certificates, and it should be stipulated that the contractors will be paid in bills at 30 days' sight on the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, at such rates of exchange as may be current or agreed upon, on the delivery of the mules, and on their being passed by the proper officers as sound and according to agreement. Payment may also be made in cash where necessary.

3. They will, in conjunction with the Military Officer, engage the muleteers and enter into agreements for the hire of stables, supply of forage, bridles, and such other articles as may be required, making payment and accounting, in monthly store and cash accounts, for these and all expenses connected with the service on which they are employed. A large number of head stalls will be shipped in the transports for use on board, and for the dépôts at the ports.

4. In engaging muleteers to take charge of the mules during the voyage to Alexandria care should be taken that proper agreements are made with the men, under the covering signature of the Consul when possible, and the wages should include everything except victualling on board ship, which will be free, to be provided by the Navy; but the Commissariat Officers are to comply with any requisition to purchase supplies locally for the Navy.

5. They will transmit schedules and copies of tenders to the War Office in the usual manner; they will send a weekly report of the amount expended and number of mules purchased and attendants hired; report their transactions generally from time to time; and they will be guided in all respects as far as possible by the regulations of the service.

6. They will advise the Paymaster-General of the bills drawn in accordance with regulation, and will render their accounts monthly to the Audit Board for the Treasury account, and to the Chief Auditor for War Office accounts, vouching the charges for the mules by certificates from the Military Officer in charge at the station, that the numbers paid for were duly embarked for Alexandria, or otherwise accounted for.

7. Invoices of the number of mules embarked from time to time for Alexandria are to be furnished by the Commissariat Officer at the port of embarkation to the Military Officer in principal charge at Alexandria, who will require from the captain of the ship, or other officer in charge of the mules while on board, a certified statement showing that the number of mules embarked were disembarked and duly handed over to the officer in charge of the dépôt at Alexandria, or were otherwise accounted for.

8. They will make inquiries as to the amount of forage procurable in the neighbourhood in case of a demand from Alexandria, and will ship a sufficient supply of forage for the voyage, say for twenty-one days, from Spain and Italy, and fourteen days from the eastern ports; the supply of compressed hay or forage which may be on board the vessel to be considered as a reserve.

LONGFORD.

29th August 1867.

No. 212.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
4th September 1867.

Sir,

I beg to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a letter addressed by this Department to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt respecting the transport of mules across Egypt for the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDS.

Enclosure in No. 212.

The Director of Transport Services to Captain J. C. WILLOUGHBY, R.N., Principal Transport Officer, Egypt.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 3d September 1867.

I have to acquaint you that Colonel Kennedy, C.B., has been placed by the Secretary of State for War in charge of all the arrangements connected with the purchase of about 7,000 mules for the Abyssinian expedition; that he will proceed at once to Alexandria, and that he has been directed to hand over the mules to the Agents of the Indian Government at Suez, by the middle of November.

Colonel Kennedy will have to provide for the maintenance of the mules during the time they may necessarily remain in Egypt.

The first cargo may be expected to arrive at Alexandria at the end of September, and seven steam transports, of about 1,000 tons each, fitted for the accommodation of the mules, and provided with adequate arrangements for embarking and landing them at Alexandria, have been detailed for this service. These transports will be placed at the disposal of Colonel Kennedy, to send to ports where mules may be ready for embarkation; it may be necessary for him to establish, for the reception of the

mules, two depôts, one at Alexandria and one at Suez, and to hire storage for the deposit of any stores which may be sent with them, or which may be consigned to Colonel Kennedy, who will provide for the transit of the mules between Alexandria and Suez.

He has been instructed that Colonel Ross, the Deputy Quartermaster-General, and the Officers of his Staff, will be available to comply with his requisitions for railway transport, but that it will be necessary for him to avoid any interference with or interruption of the relief service.

In pursuance of instructions from the Secretary of State for War, I request you will place yourself in communication with Colonel Kennedy, and afford him every assistance in your power in carrying out this service.

I am, &c.,
W. R. MENDES.

P.S.—A man-of-war will probably be stationed at Alexandria in consequence of this Abyssinian affair.

No. 213.

Telegram from the Acting British Consul General at Tunis to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, September 5th, 1867.

Mules scarce. Exportation prohibited. Bey, however, in deference to the British Government, will permit exportation for one hundred, to be extended should exigencies of country allow it. Notice given throughout Regency to mule vendors.

No. 214.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 5th, 1867.

No. 213.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a telegraphic Despatch received this day from the Acting British Consul General at Tunis, relative to the purchase of mules in the Regency for the use of the projected Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 215.

Telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Madrid, Sept. 5, 1867.

In reply to
No. 115.

The Spanish Government has no mules whatsoever to dispose of. It is not, however, disposed to place any difficulty in the way of the officers sent by Her Majesty's Government to buy mules for the Abyssinian expedition.

No. 216.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 5th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will bring to the notice of the Secretary of State for India in Council an offer which has been made by Messrs. Tylor and Sons, of Warwick Lane, to dispose of to the Government a new distilling apparatus, which is now ready for shipment.

This apparatus, which is on Grant's principle, will (it is said) distil 4,000 gallons daily; its measurement for tonnage is about 12 tons, and the price demanded is 1,000l.

Sir John Pakington is informed that a similar apparatus is in successful operation on shore at Aden.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 217.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 5th September 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 2d instant, and to your reply of the 4th, Nos. 177 and 201. relative to the proposal of Sir J. Macneill for the construction of a light railway in connexion with the advance of the force composing the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying copy of a further letter from Sir J. Macneill on the subject.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 217.

Sir JOHN MACNEILL to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir, 3d September 1867.

In the letter which I had the honour of addressing to you yesterday, on the subject of laying a cheap and inexpensive railway from the place of disembarkation of the troops to whatever point would be fixed upon in the interior of the country for the basis of operations, whether it be five miles, fifty miles, or any other distance, I omitted to mention that the rolling stock, that is to say, the trucks, carriages, or waggons for conveying the men, animals, military stores, water, &c., &c., would be according to my ideas totally different from anything that has yet been employed in the traffic of merchandise as now generally established. What I would propose would be that the carriages, trucks, &c., &c. should be constructed on the cheapest possible plan to carry the different stores that would be required. The advantages to be derived from this mode of construction will be apparent from one example, which I will take the liberty of stating; if water, for instance, be required to be transported for any army, say of 1,000 men, for 25 miles, the trucks for this purpose, on ordinary railways, would cost 60% or 70% each; hogsheads or barrels would require to be lifted into these waggons, and at the termination of the journey lifted out by porters or cranes, all of which would be expensive and tedious. Instead of this, the trucks I would propose would each consist of two sets of cast metal wheels, of two feet in diameter, with best wrought-iron axles, on which should be laid simply two balks of Memel timber, about three feet apart and fifteen feet in length; upon these balks the hogsheads or other similar vessels employed for holding the water should be placed transversely between two transverse bolsters secured to the longitudinal beams; no further work would be required. Such a truck as this, instead of costing 60% or 70%, or perhaps more, would not cost 10%; and, as every part would be made to the same templet, such a carriage might be taken to pieces, packed in a close and compact manner, for transshipment, occupying but little space as compared with that which would be required for the ordinary waggon or truck, and could be put together again on landing by unskilled hands, and ready for use in half an hour; 40 of such trucks as I have above described would carry 12,000 gallons of water, at the rate of 10 or 12 miles an hour, and at a cost, including fuel, oil, tallow, waste, for less than 5s. per mile. If the distance supposed be about 25 miles, the cost would probably be about 5%, and would occupy two and a half hours; to do the same work would require 240 camels, and would occupy two and a half days, the cost of which would probably be from 50% to 60%. Trucks and waggons for other description of military stores could be all made on the same cheap principle, suitable for each description of traffic. I hope I may be excused this intrusion on your valuable time, but I have thought this suggestion of so much importance that you would pardon it.

I have, &c.,
JOHN MACNEILL.

No. 218.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, India Office, 5th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, and to acquaint you in reply that directions were given to Captain Johnson (the Agent to this Office in Egypt), by letter dated the 2d instant, to assist Captain Willoughby, R.N., in the arrangements for the transport of stores, &c. across Egypt on account of the Abyssinian expedition. Nos. 194. No. 165.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 219.

The Assistant Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 5th September 1867.

No. 152.

With reference to your letter of the 31st ultimo, relative to a requisition for mountain batteries and rockets for service in Abyssinia, which has lately been submitted to the War Office, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from that Department on the subject, and to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that His Royal Highness has caused the necessary instructions to be issued for the despatch to the Arsenal at Woolwich of two or more young officers, and a small detachment of non-commissioned Officers and men of Royal Artillery, for the purpose of making themselves acquainted with the equipment of the mountain train batteries and the method of packing them on mules, and of learning the use and practice of Hale's war rockets.

I have, &c.,

E. B. JOHNSON, Colonel,
for Military Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 219.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

War Office, 4th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, stating that, in anticipation of the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief had, at the request of the India Office, issued the necessary instructions for the despatch to the Arsenal of Woolwich, of two or more young officers and a small detachment of non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Artillery for the purpose of making themselves acquainted with the equipment of the mountain train batteries and the method of packing them on mules, and of also learning the use and practice of Hale's war rockets, with a view to their proceeding, probably in six weeks' time, in charge of the mountain train and rocket equipment for service in Abyssinia.

I am to request that you will convey to His Royal Highness the concurrence of Sir J. Pakington in the proceedings taken in this matter.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 220.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, September 5th, 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence in regard to the intended expedition to Abyssinia, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that they have received a requisition from the Secretary of State for War for seven steam transports, of about 1,000 tons each, for the conveyance of mules to Alexandria for the use of the expedition, and my Lords request authority for taking up these transports for the service in question.

I am, &c.,

W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 221.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 5th September 1867.

No. 150.

With further reference to your letter of the 31st ultimo, containing a demand for 4,000 Snider rifles and 1,000 carbines and ammunition for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for India in Council that it will be necessary to make arrangements for the instruction of the troops in the use of these arms.

The Superintendent of the Small Arms Factory has suggested that (provided the arms are to be sent to Bombay by sea) it would be preferable to send out a viewer from Enfield, who could proceed overland, and arrive in time to instruct the armourer sergeants on the spot, so as to be in readiness for the arms immediately on their arrival.

The other course open is to send out three or four extra armourer sergeants to be attached to the troops who are to be armed with these breech-loaders.

On learning the wishes of Sir Stafford Northcote in this matter immediate steps will be taken to carry them out.

I am, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 222.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 5th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that, of the two No. 221: courses proposed therein, Sir Stafford Northcote prefers that of sending out three or four extra armourer sergeants, to be attached to the troops which will be armed with the Snider rifles and carbines.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 223.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir, India Office, 5th September 1867.

In acknowledging your letter of the 4th instant, requesting to be informed of the No. 209. particular regiments that have been selected for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state that no information upon this point has yet been received from Bombay, but that inquiry will be at once made by telegraph, See No. 210. and the result communicated to you for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 224.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 5th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed list* of stores required by the Commissariat Department for service in the establishment of mule depôts in Egypt, for the Abyssinian expedition, and I am to request that you will move Sir Stafford Northcote to express his concurrence in the supply of the same.

* Enclosure returned for revision, see Nos. 236 and 297.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 225.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 5th September 1867.

With reference to the demand, dated 30th ultimo, proposed by the Quartermaster No. 136. General, at the recommendation of Colonel Kennedy, C.B., in charge of the arrangements for the mule depôts at Alexandria and Suez, which was approved by the Secretary of State for India in Council on 31st ultimo, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to state that, in consequence of its having been subsequently arranged that the Admiralty should provide the requisite head-collars for the mules on board ship, and from other causes, it has become necessary to reduce the numbers of head-collars and certain other stores originally demanded: and I am now to request that you will submit the enclosed revised list for Sir Stafford Northcote's approval.

The articles which can be advantageously supplied from this country have been ordered from the Tower and Woolwich, the 12 Maltese carts and sets of harness for the

same have been ordered from Malta, and it is proposed to authorize Colonel Kennedy to purchase such picket posts as may be required, and the mule rugs and surcingles in Egypt.

I am to request that you will move the Secretary of State for India in Council to express his concurrence in the foregoing arrangements.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 225.

List of Stores ordered for Mule Depôts to be formed in Egypt by the Indian Government for service in Abyssinia.

From England.

Ropes, heel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
„ picket, 16 yards each	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Mauls for ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
Cords, forage (equal to 18,000 yards)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,250
Nose bags	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000
Sacks, corn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
Pickers, hoof	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500
Lanterns	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Padlocks, with staples and loops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Forges, farriers'	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tools, farriers', sets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Brands for mules	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Axes, felling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Hammers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Stoves, cooking, small	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Blankets, soldiers', field	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Head-collars	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Blankets, leather	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500
Veterinary equipments, sets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Saddles, drivers', with bridles and whips, but without numdahs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Axes, pick, 6½-lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Spades	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Shovels	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
								Lbs.	
Grease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112
Nails, iron, clasp, No. 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
„ „ „ „ 36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
„ „ „ „ 37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
„ „ „ „ 38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
„ „ „ „ 46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
„ „ „ „ 57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
„ „ clout „ 58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
„ „ „ „ 59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
„ „ „ „ 66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
„ „ tacks „ 82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11

To be purchased under orders of General Officer commanding at Malta.

Carts, Maltese, with covers and lashing ropes, 5-ft. wheels	-	12
Harness for mules, for riding and driving, sets	- { Near - - 12 Off - - 12	

Proposed to be purchased by Colonel Kennedy on the spot.

Posts, picket, necessary proportion for 1,000 ropes.	
Blankets or rugs, mule	1,000
Surcingles for ditto	1,000

No. 226.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 5th, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, a letter from Mr. Samuel Hadfield, containing suggestions for providing pure water in Abyssinia for the use of the expedition.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 227.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 5th September 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to state to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that a telegraphic despatch has this day been received from the Acting British Consul General in Egypt, stating that the Viceroy has granted permission to Her Majesty's Government to lay down a line of telegraph between Souakin and Massowah. See No. 107

I have, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 228.

Telegram from the Acting Consul General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In reply to
No. 200.

Alexandria, September 5, 1867.

Nothing is known here regarding alleged release of Abyssinian prisoners. The Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, who sent the Bishops to Abyssinia, and is now at Cairo, has not heard of the movements of those Bishops subsequently to their departure from Souakin for Gondar in June last.

No. 229.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna to the Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

(Received September 6, 1867.)

Sir,

Vienna, September 3d, 1867.

On the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo, stating that Her Majesty's Government were desirous of knowing to what extent Maria Theresa dollars were to be obtained, and at what cost, I at once applied both to Baron Meysenberg, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and to Messrs. Rothschild, one of the leading bankers of this city, for the required information. No. 73.

I have already forwarded to you by telegraph, on the 1st instant, the substance of the information which I have obtained, and I now enclose a copy of a letter from M. Rothschild on the subject. No. 158.

The Imperial Mint will readily undertake to coin any amount of these dollars, and to deliver them here at the rate of about 200,000 per week; it will not, however, accept payments in gold, and the silver itself must be furnished to it.

The Maria Theresa dollars are much used in the Levant, but are rarely seen in circulation in Austria. They are, therefore, only coined for exportation, and are made only as required for that purpose. They are still struck with the date of 1780, and their value at present, with the agio on silver at 23 per cent., is 2 florins 61½ kreutzers, Austrian paper currency, or about four shillings and threepence sterling each.

I have, &c.,
BLOOMFIELD.

Enclosure in No. 229.

M. ROTHSCHILD to Lord BLOOMFIELD.

Vienne, le 31 Août 1867.

En réponse aux diverses questions de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Britannique concernant les écus de Marie Thérèse, j'ai l'honneur de communiquer ce qui suit.

1. L'achat pur et simple de les écus sur la place de Vienne ou de Trieste n'offrirait que de faibles ressources. Il pourrait bien se présenter quelques milliers de pièces, qu'on payerait au prix actuel de

2 fl. 60 kr. à 2 fl. 62 kr., valeur Autrichienne, et qu'on pourrait ramasser peut-être dans le courant d'une semaine.

2. Pour se procurer les écus sans limite de somme, c'est-à-dire, autant qu'on en veut, il faudrait se servir de la monnaie impériale, qui frappe les écus de Marie Thérèse toujours à l'effigie de 1780.

3. La monnaie demande 2 fl. 10 $\frac{483}{1000}$ kr., valeur Autrichienne, par pièce, ce qui s'explique par ce que les écus sont frappés sur l'ancien pied de 20 kreutzers, donc, avec la différence de 5 pour cent, ou 10 kreutzers par pièce, contre la valeur Autrichienne.

4. Les frais de monnayage sont de $1\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent.

5. La monnaie n'accepte pas des acomptes *en or* ; il faut payer en argent effectif.

	Fl.	Kr.
Resumant, donc, que le pièce se paye à la monnaie	-	2 10
L'agio actuel de 23 pour cent fait	-	0 48
Frais de monnayage	-	0 3
Résulte à peu près le cours du jour de	-	<u>2 61 $\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Si le Gouvernement Britannique se trouve dans le cas de faire des commandes en écus de Marie Thérèse, j'ai l'honneur de lui offrir l'entremise de ma maison, qui donnera les plus grands soins à l'exécution de ses ordres.

PRO M. DE ROTHSCHILD, GOLDSMID.

No. 230.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 6th, 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, respecting the supply of Maria Theresa dollars required for the use of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 231.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 6, 1867.

With reference to the inquiry which at the request of the War Department, has been made at Madrid, I am directed by Lord Stanley to state to you, for the information of Secretary Sir John Pakington, that Sir J. Crampton reports that the Spanish Government has no mules to dispose of. It will not, however, place any difficulty in the way of the officers sent by Her Majesty's Government to buy mules for the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 232.

Telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Constantinople, Nov. 6, 1867.

No news has reached me of release of Abyssinian captives. I cannot account for this rumour.

No. 233.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir, India Office, 6th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, stating that the Lords of the Admiralty No. 220. have received a requisition from the Secretary of State for War for seven steam transports of about 1,000 tons, for the conveyance of mules to Alexandria, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, and requesting authority for taking up these transports for the service in question.

2. In reply, I am instructed to convey to you the sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council for the employment of the seven transports asked for by the War Department.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 234.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, 6th September 1867.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will move the Secretary of State for India in Council to sanction the purchase of the books, &c., as shown in the enclosed list, which have been asked for by Captain Tryon, R.N., who is in charge of the transports in the Red Sea taken up for the Abyssinian expedition.

For such of the works as can at once be purchased in London, 9*l.* 17*s.* would be the cost. Fifteen pounds (15*l.*) would probably include all.

Particulars connected with each work are noted in *italics*.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

Enclosure in No. 234.

List.

- General Balfour's Report on the Gallas Castle of Abyssinia. (*Cannot be procured in London.*)
 Bruce's Travels. (40*s.*)
 Abyssinia: Travels of Isenberg and Krapf. (12*s.*)
 Féret et Galinier. (*Price unknown in England; must be ordered in Paris.*)
 Valentin. (45*s.*)
 Salt. (25*s.*)
 Mansfield Parkyn. (30*s.*)
 Beke (Pamphlet, Vol. 5.) (12*s.*)
 Johnson's Travels in Southern Abyssinia. (28*s.*)
 Petermann's Mittheilunger; Paper on Coast of Africa, 1864. (*Doubtful whether these papers can be obtained in London, unless 16 volumes are purchased, for 5*l.* 10*s.**)
 Wyld's new Map of Abyssinia. (*Not yet published.*)
 Blue Books containing the correspondence on Abyssinia. (5*s.*)

No. 235.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 6th September 1867.

I am desired by Secretary Sir John Pakington to inform you that, in accordance with a pressing telegram from the Officer Commanding the Military Train, concurred in by General Baker on the part of the India Office, 40 waterproof sheets were sent to the Naval Agent at Southampton from the Tower, for the use of detachment proceeding to Alexandria.

The value of the same will be claimed from the India Office in accordance with existing arrangements.

I have, &c.,
LONGFORD.

No. 236.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 6th September 1867.

Nos. 224 and
225.

No. 205.

With reference to your letters of the 5th September and to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request you will inform the Secretary of State for War, that in consequence of a telegram received from Bombay, Sir S. Northcote is desirous of limiting the number of mules to be obtained by the War Department for the Abyssinian expedition to 5,000 instead of 7,000 as before stated.

2. Under these circumstances, it is presumed that the list forwarded with the last letter above referred to will need revision, and it is returned accordingly for that purpose.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 237.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 6th September 1867.

No. 175.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d September, forwarding copy of a letter from the agents of the Suez Canal Company, announcing that the canal is now in perfect working order, and offering the use of it for the conveyance of mules, &c.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that a copy of that letter will be communicated to the Agent and Principal Transport Officer in Egypt, and I am to suggest that a similar communication be made to Colonel Clark Kennedy.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 238.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 6th September 1867.

Enclosure in
No. 175.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for your information, and for communication to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt, copy of a letter from the agent of the Suez Canal Company (which has been received from the War Office), announcing that the canal is now in perfect working order, and offering the use of it for the conveyance of mules, &c.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 239.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 6th, 1867.

In reply to
Nos. 204 and
205.

We are sending to Aden ten lacs in Austrian dollars. What gold coins do you wish for? We shall limit our supply of mules to 5,000.

No. 240.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
6th September 1867.

Fifty copies of the following maps are required, viz.:—Moresby's large scale Chart of Red Sea, Admiralty Chart of Red Sea, Harbours of Red Sea, North and South Gulf of Aden.

No. 241.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

War Office, 6th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 3d instant, and to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that immediate steps will be taken for providing bedding and other requisites for the three hospital ships now fitting out for service in the Red Sea. No. 188.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 242.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,

6th September 1867.

Sir,

I beg to transmit herewith a list of iron screw transports now preparing for service in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition,

I have, &c.,

W. R. MENDS.

Enclosure in No. 242.

LIST of Steam Transports now preparing for Service.

No. of Transports.	Name.	Tons.	Horse Power.	Rate per Ton per Month. If discharged		Date of Acceptance.	When likely to sail.	Where preparing.	Remarks.
				At Home.	Abroad.				
1	City of Manchester	1,906	450	s. d.	s. d.	30th Aug.	Early next week.	Liverpool.	Engaged for six months certain.
2	City of Dublin	1,999	250	35 0	45 0	"			
3	England	3,307	350	35 0	Three months' additional pay.	2d Sept.			
4	Queen	3,511	350	37 6					
5	Peruvian	2,245	300	32 3	50 0	30th Aug.			
6	Kangaroo	1,719	350	32 6	45 0	"			
7	California	1,831	200	24 10	35 0	31st Aug.			
8	West Indian	1,804	200	26 0	36 0	"			
12	American	1,831	200	24 10	35 0	4th Sept.			
13	Bosphorus	2,130	280	32 6	50 0	"			
Hospital Ships.									
9	Golden Fleece	2,768	300	30 0	One month's additional pay.	31st Aug.	Not yet known.	Fitting in Victoria Docks, London.	Engaged for six months certain.
10	Mauritius	2,134	300	30 0					
11	Queen of the South	2,090	300	30 0					
Mule Ships for service in the Mediterranean.									
14	Empress	780	140	30 0	30 0	6th Sept.	Not yet known.	*	Engaged for three months certain.
15	Parana	1,320	180	25 0	25 0	4th Sept.	"	Fitting in Victoria Docks in London.	
16	Coumoundouros	969	150	24 9	30 0	"	"	*	
17	Bolivar	1,179	160	30 0	35 0	3d Sept.	"	"	
18	Venetia	755	150	34 6	44 6	"	"	Fitting at Devonport.	

* On passage to Deptford.

6th September 1867.

W. R. MENDS,
Director of Transports.

No. 243.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 6th September 1867.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a minute of their Lordships on the expenses of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

GEO. A. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 243.

Treasury Minute, dated 31st August 1867.

Write to the War Office with reference to Captain Galton's letter of the 26th instant, and Lord Longford's of the 27th, &c.

State that, as already referred to in the Treasury letter of 24th August, the arrangements for the prosecution of military operations against King Theodore being entrusted to the Indian authorities, by whom the necessary advances would be made for the expenses of the expedition, it appears to my Lords that it will be more convenient that the War Office should communicate directly with the Indian Department, and take the opinion of the Secretary of State for India, as regards the officers to be appointed, their rate of pay, and the means of supplying whatever it may be thought advisable that the War Office should supply, whether in the nature of animals, stores, or other articles in aid of the expedition.

And, with regard to the cost which may be incurred by the War Office, my Lords are of opinion that it should be charged as an advance to the Indian Department, as in the case of ordinary stores supplied to that Department, to be repaid hereafter, with the other expenses of the expedition, by the Imperial to the Indian Government, out of funds to be provided by Parliament.

Add that my Lords see no objection to the arrangements proposed in the War Office letters of the 26th and 27th instant, if they meet the views of the Indian Department.

No. 244.

Mr. LARKING to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My dear Sir,

The Athenæum, September 7, 1867.

No. 186.

Many thanks for the information contained in the memorandum which you were kind enough to send me. I have forwarded it to Nubar.

I made two attempts to see you at the Foreign Office, but each time you were so deeply engaged I thought it hopeless to wait.

Very truly yours,

JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 245.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 7th, 1867.

Commander-in-Chief asks for services of Veterinary Surgeon Lamb. The Commissary-General asks for Conductors Henderson and Lee, now in England.

No. 246.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 7th September 1867.

No. 134.

In reply to your letter of the 2d instant, I am directed to state that Sir S. Northcote has no objection to Colonel Ross being desired to afford the assistance of his Department to Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., whilst employed in Egypt, upon the understanding, as stated in your letter, of its not interfering with the duties in connexion with the overland relief service.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 247.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you that, from a communication which has been received from the Admiralty, it would appear that five vessels only have been engaged as transports for service in the Mediterranean, for the conveyance of mules to Alexandria, and from inquiries made at the Transport Office it also appears that the vessels so taken up can only accommodate in the aggregate 805 mules.

Sir John Pakington would wish you to observe to Sir Stafford Northcote that, in his opinion, such limited amount of transport is quite insufficient for this service, unless the number of mules to be purchased be still further reduced, and he would submit for Sir Stafford Northcote's consideration, whether the original demand upon the Admiralty for seven mule transports should not be adhered to.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 248.

The Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Horse Guards, 7th September 1867.

I am desired by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to forward, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, the enclosed letter, suggesting that every soldier going to Abyssinia should carry his own filter with him.

I have, &c.,
H. H. CLIFFORD, Colonel,
Assistant, for Quartermaster-General.

No. 249.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Director-General of Stores, India Office.

Sir, War Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit for your information copy of a letter addressed to the Director of Transports, Somerset House, respecting the vessels engaged for the conveyance of mules to Alexandria.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 249.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Director of Transports, Somerset House.

Sir, War Office, 5th September 1867.

I have the honour, by the direction of the Secretary of State for War, to request that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will be so good as to give instructions for the seven transport vessels taken up for the conveyance of mules to Alexandria to be devoted to that purpose with as little delay as possible. The three first vessels which were to have proceeded to Alexandria direct with freight will be required to call at the ports for mules, and freight should be hired in private vessels for the forage and stores which were originally intended to have been consigned to Alexandria in those vessels, except the sacks and such quantity of compressed hay as they may be able to take on board with little delay, to serve as a reserve in case the supply shipped at the ports might fall short, owing to accidents or unexpected detention of the mules on board. It will be necessary also that the Military Train stores, for use of the mules at Alexandria, should be shipped in the freight vessels, so as to arrive at Alexandria before the first cargo of mules.

This alteration is necessary owing to the mule transport being likely to be later in their departure from England than was originally anticipated, and in order that the service may be completed within the prescribed period.

I have, &c.,
E. LUGARD.

No. 250.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 7th September 1867.

No. 191.

In reply to your letter of the 3d instant, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief proposes, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, to recommend to Her Majesty to confer on Brigadier-General Sir C. Staveley, K.C.B., the temporary rank of Major-General, whilst employed with the Abyssinian expeditionary force.

I am, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

No. 251.

In reply to
No. 172.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 7th, 1867.

Brigadier-General Staveley will be recommended for the local rank of Major-General.

No. 252.

Mr. BRASSEY to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Railway in Abyssinia.

No. 4, Great George Street, Westminster,
7th September 1867.

Dear Sir,

There are three questions on which I am informed by your letter of 3d instant that Sir S. Northcote wishes for my opinion.

1st. Whether a railway, to serve as means of communication between the force in its advance and the Red Sea, could be constructed in sufficient time to be of sensible value to the service which it is hoped may be performed between November 1867 and June 1868?

2d. What would be the best description of railway for such purpose?

3d. What would be its cost?

In reply, I beg to say,—

1st. That I think a light railway would prove of great advantage to the invading force, and that, assuming that the nature of the country is favourable, it might be constructed at such a rate as to be available more rapidly than any other sort of road. The actual rate of construction would depend simply on the rate at which a surface line, of eight to ten feet of width, could be formed. The rails should be laid on the natural surface of the ground, as nearly as may be, and at such gradients as the country may admit, and when such gradients exceed the power of the locomotive engine the traffic should be worked by a wire rope driven either by a rope rail at the top or by an extra locomotive working on the flat, the rope acting as a tail rope.

Supposing the formation not to interfere with the platelaying, the rails could be laid at the rate of five or six miles per week.

2d. The railway should be made to a gauge of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet. This gauge is working quite successfully in Queensland and New Zealand. The rails should be flat-bottomed, weighing 40 lbs. to the yard fixed with dog bolts to pine sleepers 7 ft. $\times$ 8 in. $\times$ 4 in. The engines and other rolling stock should be generally similar to those used in the above-named railways. The chief reason for adopting this narrow gauge and light rail is to reduce as much as possible the weight of material to be sent from this country, and to facilitate the construction by the comparative lightness of the materials.

3d. As to the cost,—

I send herewith an estimate of the cost per mile, which, so far as regards the superstructure and the rolling stock, may be relied on,—the only doubtful point being the cost of transport of material from this country to the port of discharge in the Red Sea. Such cost will depend (at any rate for the first fifty miles of line) very much on the possibility of an arrangement with the Suez Canal Company. I have assumed in my estimate a rate of 5*l.* per ton to cover all charges.

I am, &c.,
THOMAS BRASSEY.

Enclosure in No. 252.

Estimate per mile of Light Railway for Abyssinia.

				Price.					
			Tons.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rails, 40 lbs. per yard	-	-	63	7	0	0	441	0	0
Sleepers, 1,760	-	-	70	0	3	0	264	0	0
Fish plates, 2,350	-	-	5	10	0	0	50	0	0
Spikes, 7,040	-	-	2	12	0	0	24	0	0
Bolts and nuts, 4,700	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	16	0	0	8	0	0
<u>140$\frac{1}{2}$</u>									
Freight, insurance, landing, &c.	-	-	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	0	0	702	10	0
Lineal yards.									
Forming and preparing surface to receive the line	-	-	1,760	0	3	0	264	0	0
Laying the road	-	-	1,760	0	1	0	88	0	0
Boxing up	-	-	1,760	0	2	0	176	0	0
Light rolled girders for crossing brooks or small ravines, including freight and landing	-	-	10	25	0	0	250	0	0
Switches and crossings, water tanks, including freight	-	-	5	-	-	-	100	0	0
Management, inspector's wages, supposing fifty miles to be made, including also travelling expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	0	0
Transport of permanent way materials after being landed	-	-	140	0	10	0	70	0	0
							<u>£2,537</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>

Say 2,600% per mile.

Fifty miles of railway at 2,600% per mile	-	-	£130,000	0	0
Rolling stock, plant, &c., as per estimate annexed	-	-	43,375	0	0
			<u>£173,375</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

For Thos. Brassey,
JNO. BURGESS.3, Poets' Corner, Westminster,
7th September 1867.

Estimate of Rolling Stock, &c.

			Tons.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
10 locomotive engines and tenders, weighing say	-	-	180	1,300	0	0	13,000	0	0
100 trucks of various sorts, averaging	-	-	400	90	0	0	9,000	0	0
6 portable engines, with rope rolls	-	-	100	900	0	0	5,400	0	0
Wire ropes	-	-	15	50	0	0	750	0	0
Incline sheaves	-	-	10	20	0	0	200	0	0
Plant, such as derricks, trollies, winches, platelayers' and other tools	-	-	200	-	-	-	10,000	0	0
<u>905</u>									
Freight, insurance, and landing	-	-	905	5	0	0	4,525	0	0
Extra freight on locomotives	-	-	10	50	0	0	500	0	0
							<u>£43,375</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

For Thos. Brassey,
JNO. BURGESS.3, Poets' Corner, Westminster,
7th September 1867.

No. 253.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit a copy of a communication from the Admiralty, together with the opinion of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department thereon, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 253.

The Acting Chief Clerk, Transport Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 31st August 1867.

I have to request that you will be pleased to inform me of the description and quantities of provisions for invalids which should, in the opinion of the Secretary of State for War, be put on board the three vessels now preparing in the Thames as hospital ships to be attached to the Abyssinian expedition, observing that there is no special scale of victualling now in force for invalids embarked, but that there is a very liberal supply of medical comforts always shipped with provisions; and whether any, and what, articles of provisions will require to be supplied to these ships from naval victualling yards, in order that application for the necessary supplies may be made.

I beg to add that each vessel will be fitted for 200 sick, in addition to their attendants and other persons to be employed on board, who will be victualled upon the usual scale for troops embarked for passage, and that the vessel will be provisioned in accordance with such scale for six months.

I have, &c.,

W. L. ANDERSON,
for Director of Transports.

Enclosure 2 in No. 253.

Opinion of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department.

The diet scale with extras in use in military hospitals ought to be adopted on these ships.

This scale was used during the China war; it is better adapted in all respects for sick men than the diet scale and medical comforts of the Transport Regulations, and it is believed would be much more economical.

No. 254.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, forwarding copy of a communication from the Admiralty upon the subject of provisioning the vessels now fitting out as hospital ships for the Abyssinian expedition, together with the opinion of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department thereon.

2. In reply, I am desired to state that Sir S. Northcote is of opinion that the suggestions of the Director-General should be adopted, and the ships in question provisioned on the diet scale, with extras, in use in military hospitals.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 255.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
7th September 1867.

Before Sir Robert Napier, whose name is unknown in Abyssinia, makes his peremptory demand and announces hostilities, we think that an intimation should be made by Lord Stanley, who is known, in the Queen's name, that further pacific communications are now impossible, and that the matter has been placed in Sir Robert Napier's hands, to enforce redress. In order to save time, you might telegraph to me authority to do this, as from Lord Stanley.

No. 256.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, furnishing a list of the officers and men of the Military Train and Commissariat Department appointed to assist Colonel J. Clark Kennedy, C.B., in Egypt, and forwarding at the same time copy of the letter of instructions to Colonel Kennedy.

2. These instructions, I am to state, are entirely in accordance with Sir S. Northcote's views. My letter of yesterday's date, however, will have informed you that it is proposed

to limit the collection of mules to 5,000 instead of 7,000. Upon this point, therefore, the instructions to Colonel Kennedy will require modification.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 257.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Major J. U. CHAMPAIN, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, relative to the description and extent of telegraphs which you consider it desirable should be provided in connexion with the proposed expeditionary force to Abyssinia. No. 190.

2. Sir S. Northcote proposes to address the Government of Bombay and the Horse Guards, with a view to the adoption of the several measures proposed by you, and I am to request that you will at once place yourself in communication with the Director-General of Stores, with a view to providing the materials which you propose to procure in this country, and also with Colonel Simmons, R.E., regarding the signalling apparatus.

3. The services of Lieutenant St. John, R.E., have been placed at your disposal for the purpose of assisting in the provision of the stores in question, and that Officer will be instructed to take charge of them and to place himself at the disposal of the Officer commanding the force.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 258.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, copy of a report which has been received from Major Champain, Royal Engineers, upon the subject of a system of telegraphs for the use of the Abyssinian force, and to request, with reference to that Officer's proposal for working the flying lines, that a party of 20 or 25 non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Engineers, thoroughly trained in the Telegraph School at Chatham, under the charge of a subaltern Officer, may be held in readiness to proceed to join the force under the command of Sir Robert Napier, with a view to their employment in the manner indicated. No. 190.

2. I am to add, at the same time, that Lieutenant St. John, Royal Engineers, has been appointed to proceed in charge of the stores connected with the telegraph establishment.

3. I am also desired to request that Colonel Simmons, Royal Engineers, may be instructed to furnish Major Champain with such information as he may require in connexion with the apparatus for day and night signalling, and to consider at the same time the strength of the staff that would suffice to work the signals, as a branch of the general telegraphic equipment.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 259.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant ST. JOHN, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request you will place yourself under the orders of Major Champain, R.E., with the view of assisting that Officer in the provision of the materials required for the construction of lines of telegraph in connexion with the proposed Abyssinian expedition.

2. You will also hold yourself in readiness to proceed to India, or to such place as may be appointed by the authorities in Bombay, in charge of those stores.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 260.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 7th September 1867.

No. 233.

With reference to my letter of yesterday, authorizing the employment of seven steam transports for the conveyance to Alexandria of mules to be collected by the War Department, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty, that, in consequence of information received by telegram from the Government of Bombay, it has been decided to limit the collection of mules on this side of Egypt to 5,000 instead of 7,000, and that the War Office has been informed accordingly.

No. 205.

No. 236.

2. Under these circumstances Sir S. Northcote is of opinion that five transports will suffice for that service instead of seven.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 261.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Director-General of Stores, India Office.

Sir,

War Office, 7th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that the following supplies have been ordered for shipment for the use of the mules purchased in the Mediterranean and Black Sea for the expedition to Abyssinia.

500 tons compressed hay, to be shipped 100 tons a week, commencing 3d instant; 300 tons patent compressed forage, to be shipped by 7th October.

It is intended that this hay and forage should be stored at the mule depôts at Alexandria and Suez, as a reserve, to meet any emergencies which may arise. A small portion of the hay will be put on board the ships conveying mules, for use in case only of the ordinary supply of forage running short.

10,000 sacks (four bushels each) to Alexandria, to facilitate the purchase and transit of grain in Egypt, and for exchange with the masters of vessels for full sacks landed by them.

10,000 sacks will be put on board each ship conveying mules, to exchange at the ports for full sacks put on board.

500 sacks will be sent to each shipping port, for putting corn on board ship with mules.

Four beam scales (10 cwt. each), with boards and weights complete, and four portable weighing machines, on four wheels, to weigh 5 cwt., sent to Alexandria for use there and at Suez, in the purchase and issue of forage.

200 halters will also be put on board each vessel for the use of mules, which, if required, will be handed over to the proper military authority at Alexandria, on the completion of the transport of mules.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 262.

In reply to
No. 210.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 8th, 1867.

The British regiments proposed for Abyssinia are the 4th, 26th, 33d, and 45th Foot.

No. 263.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State
for India.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 6, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a Despatch which, by the Queen's command, his Lordship has addressed to King Theodore of Abyssinia.†

I am, &c.,

E. HAMMOND.

* A similar letter was addressed to the War Department.

† For this letter, as finally sent, see Enclosure in No. 408.

No. 264.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 9th September 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 6th instant, conveying the approval of the Secretary of State for India of the arrangements proposed by the Secretary of State for War for employing seven transports in the conveyance of mules to Alexandria for the Abyssinian expedition, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will lay before Sir Stafford Northcote the accompanying copy of a letter from the War Department, intimating the intention of providing only 5,000 mules. Under these circumstances, my Lords wish to be informed whether five transports only shall be taken up, or whether seven is the number decided on. Five vessels are already secured and being fitted, and two more will be advertised should the India Office desire it.

I am, &c.,

W. G. ROMAINE.

Enclosure in No. 264.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

War Office, 7th September 1867.

With reference to my letters of the 27th and 30th ultimo, on the subject of the arrangement for the transport to Alexandria of the mules purchased for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the number of mules to be purchased by the British Government has, for the present, been reduced to 5,000; there will, therefore, be a corresponding reduction in the number of head-stalls, &c., and of the attendants (one to eight mules) to be embarked; but, in Sir John Pakington's opinion, it will not be expedient, in consideration of the time being so limited, to reduce the number of transports that have been applied for, as would appear to be contemplated from Captain Mends's letter of the 6th instant.

I am further to add, for their Lordships' information, that Smyrna has been struck out of the list of those places where mules are to be purchased. A visit to this port by one of the mule transports will, therefore, be unnecessary.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 265.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 9th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a communication which has been received from Mr. Henry Banister, on the subject of the force proposed for the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia.

Sir John Pakington would invite Sir Stafford Northcote's earnest attention to the statements and suggestions contained in Mr. Banister's letter.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 265.

Mr. BANISTER to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

St. Heliers, Jersey, 3d September 1867.

I have heard with astonishment that six regiments of Cavalry and two batteries of Artillery are to form part of the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia.

As an old and experienced traveller and sojourner in Upper Egypt and the East, permit me to impress upon you the fact that these arms will prove to be utterly worthless. Indeed, it is my firm opinion that they will materially affect the efficiency of the army, and entail disaster, if not absolute failure.

As additional reasons for their non-employment, I would urge that the enemy is totally unprovided with either, and that the country possesses every impediment to their useful action.

The horse and ass are rare in Upper Egypt; at Doryola and Senuaar they are almost strangers, and require, even in the cool season, the constant attention of attendants to protect them from the attacks of their myriad enemies.

I have in these countries, even in December, seen the stout-hided buffalo driven into the water for protection, leaving only his nose exposed, while I have sought it unsuccessfully under the finest gauze.

It is evident, therefore, that horses and mules ought not to be relied on, and that Cavalry and Artillery ought not to be sent to Abyssinia.

An army which would possess all the elements necessary for success in this peculiar country should be composed of Infantry; one company Engineers, provided with pig-skin pontoons; one rocket troop; and two troops of dromedary cavalry, the latter organized and drilled on the plan I have the honour to enclose.

The camel should be the only beast of burden employed, and he should be hired (not purchased) of the Arab Sheiks, who would provide Arabs or Fellaheen to pack and drive, at which they are adepts. All that need be provided would be a good supply of strong cord.

I would recommend the dromedary for the use of the General and all mounted Officers, as singularly adapted for the service.

His walk is faster than that of man, his gallop equal to that of a steeple-chaser, his endurance almost beyond belief, and he is exceedingly docile and obedient to the slightest motion of the rider; and although his gait and movements are peculiar, an ordinary horseman could accommodate himself to them in two or three days, and ride with ease.

As the object in view is not so much to devastate the country as to strike at the person and the power of the King, the two dromedary troops should not be harassed by outpost duty or skirmishing, but held in reserve, to be launched on the flank or rear of the enemy, and prevent the hide-and-seek tactics which will be undoubtedly adopted by the wily savage, who will, I fear, leave our troops to beat the air.

One camel to two effectives would permit the army to act independently.

During the months of December and January, the troops could act with vigour; they should not be detained in the interior later than the end of March.

There are many and important details known to those who have sojourned and travelled in eastern lands, some of which would materially affect the health and efficiency of the troops.

Any further information or service my experience might enable me to render, I would place unreservedly at your service.

I have, &c.,

HENRY BANISTER.

Enclosure 2 in No. 265.

Memorandum by Mr. BANISTER.

Dromedary Troop.

A contract should be made as soon as possible with Arab Sheiks, to deliver the required number of dromedaries, with ordinary Arab trappings and Arab drivers, for hire, on the 1st October, at the Central Station between Cairo and Suez, when and where the soldiers selected for the service should assemble for organization and one month's drill, preparatory to embarkation at Suez for the seat of war. Six serjeants and 120 privates should be selected from an English Hussar regiment; the principal recommendations for the service should be,—light weight, good temper, and good horsemanship; they would form two troops, under their own Officers, six Subalterns and two Captains. They should wear their uniform, with forage cap covered, and buff Hessian boots, without spurs.

They should be armed with sword, two revolvers, one breech-loading carbine, and six hand grenades, one large extra leathern ammunition pouch.

The evolutions should not exceed those given below; they should be performed at the gallop or walk, in as close order as possible, acting on almost all occasions as heavy cavalry.

The mounted Arabs, with the reserve, to keep to the rear, but well up.

Troop to form single line, advance in line, retire by fours to the left, retire in line by going about by the left by fours.

Formation for march, by fours left in front; also in single file left in front.

One serjeant should remain with the reserve.

One Troop.

Officers	-	-	-	4	-	-	Dromedaries	-	-	4
Serjeants	-	-	-	3	-	-	Ditto	-	-	3
Privates	-	-	-	60	-	-	Ditto	-	-	60
Dragoman	-	-	-	1	-	-	Ditto	-	-	1
Arabs	-	-	-	6	-	-	Ditto	-	-	12
				74					80	

No. 266.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 9th September 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 31st ultimo, I beg to acquaint you that, in consequence of the manufacturers being unable to supply the quantities of preserved

potato and compressed vegetables required for the Abyssinian transports, rice will be supplied in lieu, to such extent as may be necessary, at the rate of one pound of rice for one pound of compressed vegetables or one pound of preserved potato, and Captain Tryon has been so informed.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDES.

No. 267.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

9th September 1867.

It being considered desirable that the pack-saddles ordered for the Abyssinian expedition should be examined and reported upon by a Board of Officers to ascertain whether they are suitable for this service, I am desired by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that an Officer of the India Store Department may attend at Woolwich for this purpose.

He will be associated with Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, and Mr. Joseph Aspinall.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 268.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 9th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he agrees No. 207. to the provision of six sets of special tools, and six Dodd's forges, fitted with proportion of spare parts, for service of the Abyssinian expedition, and request that they may be supplied on requisition for the India Store Department.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 269.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 9th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, and to request, with reference to the last para- No. 195. graph thereof, that the Military Store Officers at the Tower and Woolwich may be instructed to communicate particulars as to tonnage, &c., direct to the Director-General of Stores for India.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 270.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 9th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that the Lords of the Admiralty will be pleased to give directions for the provision of Govern- See No. 2 ment passages to Bombay for Conductor W. Lee on the steamer leaving Marseilles on the 20th instant, and for Veterinary Surgeon Lamb and Conductor J. Henderson on the steamer leaving Southampton on the 27th instant.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 271.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 9th September 1867.*

With reference to previous correspondence relative to the preparation of two batteries of 7-pounder mountain guns, with 500 rounds per gun, for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief considers that 1,000 rounds per gun should be prepared; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to move Sir Stafford Northcote to state whether he concurs in His Royal Highness's opinion.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 272.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 9th September 1867.

No. 255.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for submission to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying copy of a telegram received this morning from the Governor of Bombay, suggesting that formal intimation should be made to the Emperor of Abyssinia to the effect that further proceedings were now placed in the hands of Sir Robert Napier, and I am to request that such measures may be taken, as Lord Stanley may consider necessary, with a view of carrying out this suggestion.

2. I am also to request that Sir S. Northcote may be informed as soon as possible of Lord Stanley's purpose in this respect, with a view to his informing the Government of Bombay upon the subject.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 273.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 9, 1867.

No. 272.

In reply to your letter of this day's date, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you a letter* which, by the Queen's commands, his Lordship has addressed to King Theodore, calling upon him to release the persons detained by him in captivity in Abyssinia, and informing him that this demand will be enforced by a military expedition under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir R. Napier.

I enclose a copy of that letter, and I am to request that you will move Secretary Sir S. Northcote to give such directions thereon to Sir Robert Napier as may be right and proper.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MURRAY.

No. 274.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 9th, 1867.

The Accountant-General suggests that Captain Willoughby, who has been sent to Egypt to purchase mules, should be authorized to draw bills on London, as well as on Bombay. His credit is for 100,000*l*.

* For this letter, as finally sent, see Enclosure in No. 412.

No. 275.

Telegram from the Transport Officer at Alexandria to the Military Secretary,
India Office, September 9th, 1867.

[In reply to an inquiry whether the materials for the Hospital at Suez could be sent
by the Suez Canal.]

The materials can be sent by the canal, but there is more certainty and expedition by
the Egyptian railway from Alexandria.

No. 276.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Stuttgart to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
Received Sept. 9th, 1867.

My Lord,

Stuttgart, September 7th, 1867.

I hasten to transmit the enclosed Despatch which I have just received from
Mr. Cobbold, giving information as to an experienced guide for Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
G. GORDON.

Enclosure in No. 276.

Mr. COBBOLD to Mr. GORDON.

Sir,

Baden, September 6th, 1867.

At the present moment, when Her Majesty's Government is on the eve of preparations for
waging war against the Sovereign of a distant and comparatively unknown country, it is evidently the
duty of Her Majesty's servants to give such information as may be likely to prove of service, and I
therefore need no further apology for addressing you on the following subject.

A friend of mine, Count Aynard Cavour, nephew and heir of the late Count Camille Cavour, was
travelling three years in Egypt, and resided for two months at Khartoum, a town about three days'
march from Abyssinia; his intention was to traverse the latter country, and after much difficulty he
succeeded in engaging as a guide the services of an individual named Contarini, a Levantine or
Candiot, who had resided for seven years in Abyssinia, was acquainted with the language, and had
penetrated into parts of the country hitherto unvisited by Europeans.

Count Cavour was prevented through the illness of his companion from carrying out his intentions,
but he believes that Contarini is still residing at Khartoum, and at the time was well satisfied with his
testimonials.

I have, &c.,
T. CLEMENT COBBOLD.

No. 277.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for
India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 9th, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Sir Stafford
Northcote, copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Stuttgart, containing No. 276
information respecting an individual who, it is conceived, might be of service in the
Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 278.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

India Office, 9th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for the
information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of a No. 193
Despatch which has been addressed to the Government of Bombay respecting the
expedition to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 279.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 9th September 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 6th instant, relative to the offer of the Agents of the Suez Canal Company to convey mules, horses, and stores by that route, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington, to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a further letter from Messrs. Mosses and Mitchell on the subject.

I am to add, that a copy of Messrs. Mosses and Mitchell's previous letter has been forwarded to Colonel Clark Kennedy at Alexandria.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 279.

MESSRS. MOSSES and MITCHELL to the Under Secretary of State for War.

My Lord,

55, Gracechurch Street, 6th September 1867.

We are induced to call your Lordship's attention to our communication of the 3d instant, in consequence of the necessity which exists, in the event of our tender to Government being accepted, of furnishing the earliest information to the transit officials at Port Said. We have, therefore, to submit to your Lordship whether it would not be possible, under existing circumstances, to conclude a contract with us for the transit of mules, horses, and stores, subject to the report of Colonel J. Clark Kennedy. We beg to direct your Lordship's attention to a paragraph in this day's "Times," (page 8) extracted from the "Malta Times," in which it is stated that the steamship "Eridan," of the Messageries Imperiales Company entered Port Said on the 29th July, and, as this vessel is of greater tonnage than the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer "Pera," 1,261 tons register, it will be seen that our previous statement respecting the depth of water and facilities for landing at Port Said is fully established.

We have, &c.,

MOSSES and MITCHELL.

No. 280.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, September 10th, 1867.

The stores which will be required from Bombay for the telegraph in Abyssinia are the following:—10,000 strong bamboos, 18 feet long, of the kind used for scaffolding, a large double-poled and three single-poled tents. Major Champain will provide the other stores within a month from England.

No. 281.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir,

India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that 5,000 of the pocket filters alluded to therein have been already ordered for the use of the troops proceeding to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 282.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of

the purchase of the publications, mentioned in the list which accompanied that letter, for the use of Captain Tryon during the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 283.

The Officiating Resident at Aden to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (received September 10th, 1867).

My Lord,

Aden, 22d August 1867.

Colonel Merewether proceeded to Bombay on duty on the 13th of this month. In his absence, I have the honour to report the arrival of a bugalow from Massowah yesterday evening, bringing intelligence of the captives up to the 1st July.

Mr. Rassam, whose letter is dated the 30th of June, writes as follows :—

“ The reason I am now in such a hurry is, because I wish the bearer, Dafturn Dasta (one of my old trustworthy servants), to go down to Massowah with important intelligence. Wakshun Gobazay, the chief rebel of Tigré and Lasta, has sent to the Bishop to say that he was coming to attack this fortress and give him his liberty, and if that be accomplished we shall all be free. The messenger reports that he left his master with an enormous army near Wadala, about five days' journey hence, and that all the rebel districts from Debra Tabor to this have sent deputations to him to join him, and it is premised that, once Wakshun Gobazay approaches this neighbourhood, our royal friend would be done for. As I cannot allow this important intelligence to lie dormant here, I am despatching a special messenger to convey it to you through M. Munzinger, and I have instructed him to collect further information on the road, and, if he meet Wakshun Gobazay, to find out from him what his real intention is regarding his movements. There is no doubt that, if Wakshun Gobazay succeeds in capturing this stronghold (according to Abyssinian estimation), he will be proclaimed Emperor by the Bishop, and there is no doubt that, once he gets the heads of the Abyssinian church, the prelate and the chief of the monks (who are both my friends), he will have the greater part of Abyssinia on his side. You will be glad to hear that we are all well, but have all suffered lately from colds. Since the 21st of last month we have not been able to communicate with Debra Tabor, and the only messenger who arrived thence since then was from His Majesty, and even he was obliged to smuggle himself through the rebellious districts, and was not one of the royal messengers, but was engaged for the occasion. He brought us compliments from His Majesty, and reported that all the messengers whom I had sent to Debra Tabor and were plundered by the rebels, had reached the royal camp safely, but in a state of nudity, and that the Emperor had dressed them all, and was entertaining them with Hailo the messenger I had sent to His Majesty some time ago. He reported also that the Emperor had not imprisoned the Europeans at Gaffat, but that one day he was angry with them, and afterwards he was reconciled to them. They are all at present living with him inside a large hedge built for the winter.”

2. A letter has also been received from Dr. Blanc ; this will be forwarded by the first opportunity *in extenso*. I regret that the sudden arrival of the bugalow, and the equally sudden departure of the steamer, prevent my forwarding it at once.

3. M. Munzinger, writing from Massowah on the 11th of August, says,—

“ The letters brought down are full forty days old, and so quite lose all their interest. The messenger, on his way down, was to see Degas Gobazay, and to bring me news about his further movements. On his passing through Lasta, that Chief was far off to the eastward, so the messenger was obliged to proceed without seeing him. If anything had happened since, the good news would have reached us, no doubt, before this. I asked the messenger if such an enterprise had any chances of success ; he said there was no doubt about it, but he feared Gobazay would not have courage enough to try it. He has now before him a full month to make an essay, the rivers between the fortress and Debra Tabor not allowing the King's army to pass before the 15th September, Abyssinia. I have no positive news about the King, but have been told by many people that the Europeans in his service are not in chains. I have again sent a spy to the camp with some lines for Mr. Flad.”

4. The bugalow which brought the letters returns to Massowah to-morrow evening ; by her I send letters and newspapers for the captives.

I have, &c.,

H. B. ABBOTT, Officiating Resident.

Enclosure in No. 283.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 30th June 1867.

Your very kind and interesting letter of the 4th May arrived yesterday. I cannot tell you what pleasure it gave me. I was, above all things, pleased to hear that at last a firm policy has been adopted, and that your unwearied exertions have been crowned with success. I must also thank you heartily for the trouble you have taken about my little summary of Abyssinian affairs. The objection you advance about landing troops on the burning shore of Massowah during the summer months is certainly a very valid one, but my reason for not considering this obstacle insurmountable was that I thought that arrangements might be made so as to allow the European portion of the force to proceed at once to the highlands, leaving the baggage, &c., to be conveyed under the protection of Native troops. I do not say it would have been all smooth,—only, not impossible. However, the question is past discussing now. We must take patience during the next few months, and hope that nothing will in the meanwhile occur to delay or postpone the “promenade.”

As I wrote to you a few days ago by Lemma, let no considerations influence now the decided course of action,—the King low or great, a mere robber as he is now, or again a successful conqueror, a wanderer or our jailer, even should his place have been filled by another. For our liberty, for the good name of England, for the safety of the white men in future days, an army must be marched into this country, and the lost prestige restored. Certainly the occasion is splendid to satisfy justice, and, at the same time, to add another jewel to the British crown. Nothing new; a great many stories are daily circulated; it is difficult to believe anything. Even did a messenger (a servant of one of the prisoners) arrive here from Debra Tabor with a message from the King is very doubtful. At all events, if he really did come from His Majesty, this one quite forgot our money, as compliments solely reached us. Are all the Abyssinian prisoners daily tortured, tied up in fresh hides, and exposed to the sun? Have they all, with the exception of four, been killed?—is impossible to say, as both stories are equally credited and circulated? Did the king again plunder Begemder? Did he try to come here, and was attacked during the night, and obliged to retreat? Did a great number of his soldiers desert whilst on small expeditions, so that he was obliged to abandon his intent, and return to Debra Tabor?—are among reports the truth of which it is impossible to ascertain. One fact alone is true, the King is the greatest, the most unmitigated scoundrel under the sun; he is capable of the most atrocious crimes, and no confidence can be placed either in his words or deeds; he can send compliments on one day, and an order for hand-chains and plunder on another. If really a man, bearer of a letter of his, did succeed in passing through the rebels, it is a bad look-out for us, as another may do the same, and bring us bad tidings.

Many thanks for your kindness in kindly sending me a few cheroots, brandy, medicines, &c., but I am most unfortunate. I wrote to Munzinger, and told my servant to come *via* Lasta, the only possible route; instead, the creature has gone *via* Waggura, and I will never see him again, nor the stores. I have already a good supply at Debra Tabor, some things at Metemma; but for the advantage I will reap from them, they might as well be at “Timbuctoo.” All my personal kit, too, is at Debra Tabor, with the Europeans, minus the articles kindly appropriated by our friend; he might as well have taken the whole at the time, as I will never see a particle of it again. I regret, above all, the loss of the medicines; they are of great value to us. A few days ago, I had to attend the sister of the “Sultana favorita,” a fine girl, but suffering from the very common disease which seems to know no rank. I am highly pleased to hear of your being appointed Commissioner of Sinde. I sincerely congratulate you on the appointment. I hope, however, that you will not have to join before our little affair is over, one way or the other. Excuse my selfishness, but, once you are withdrawn from the work, woe to the Abyssinian captives!

Samuel was highly gratified with your message, begs to thank you for the same, and sends you his respectful compliments.

Believe me, &c.,

H. BLANC.

No. 284.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that Sir Stafford Northcote approves of the forty waterproof sheets having been despatched from the Tower to the Naval Agent at Southampton for the use of the detachment of the Military Train proceeding to Alexandria.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 285.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir, India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, enclosing a pamphlet forwarded by Dr. Beke No. 206. with reference to the victualling of a British Army in the Red Sea.

2. Sir Stafford Northcote will be glad to have a few more copies of the pamphlet, if available.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 286.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, and in reply to forward to you a copy of No. 197. a telegram which was sent on the 5th instant to Captain Willoughby at Alexandria, No. 275. and of the reply which has been this day received, stating that more certainty and expedition would be obtained in the adoption of the Egyptian Railway as the route for the conveyance of stores, &c., to Suez, than if they were sent by the Suez Canal.

2. In the opinion, however, of Sir Stafford Northcote it is very desirable that, wherever practicable, measures should be adopted for relieving the railway from part of the great amount of traffic which is likely to be thrown upon it.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 287.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, transmitting a further letter from Sir John Macneill with reference to his proposition for the construction of a light railway for the use of the force to be employed in Abyssinia. No. 217.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 288.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir, India Office, 10th September 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a telegram has been this day received No. 209. from Bombay stating that the British Regiments which it is proposed to select for the expedition to Abyssinia are the 4th, 26th, 33d, and 45th. No. 262.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 289.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
10th September 1867.

Sir,

I beg to acquaint you that all the transports engaged at Liverpool for the Abyssinian expedition will be ready to sail in the course of a day or two, and that some of them will leave to-morrow.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDES.

No. 290.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, and with reference to previous correspondence, an extract of a letter addressed by the Director of Transport Services to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt on the subject of the transport of mules across Egypt for the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 291.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the "tube well" referred to by Mr. Hadfield is already under the consideration of Sir Stafford Northcote, with reference to its probable utility during the expedition to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS,
Major-General.

No. 292.

The Acting Consul General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
Received September 10, 1867.

My Lord,

Alexandria, August 28th, 1867.

On receiving yesterday your Lordship's Despatch of the 19th instant, relative to the proposed military expedition to Abyssinia, I called upon Chérif Pasha, and, after communicating to His Excellency your Lordship's instructions to me, applied in suitable terms for the desired permission of passage through the Egyptian territory, and such other facilities or assistance as the Viceroy's Government could afford to the Officers in charge of the said expedition. His Excellency expressed himself as being personally disposed to comply at once with your Lordship's request, but declined to give a formal reply to my application until after a reference to Constantinople, which he told me would probably involve a delay of some forty-eight hours.

Later in the day, and conformably with an understanding I had come to with Chérif Pasha, I repeated in a written form the communication I had, as above stated, made to His Excellency verbally. Of this communication I beg herewith to enclose a copy.

I have, &c.,
T. F. READE.

Enclosure in No. 292.

The Acting Consul-General in Egypt to CHÉRIF PASHA.

M. le Président,

Alexandria, le 29 Août 1867.

J'ai l'honneur de soumettre, ci-joint, à Votre Excellence la traduction d'une dépêche que j'ai reçue de Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique, relativement à une expédition militaire projetée contre l'Abyssinie, dans le but d'obtenir la libération des Européens détenus en captivité par la Roi Théodore, et de châtier ce Souverain pour les avoir emprisonnés. En transmettant ce document, il est de mon devoir de m'adresser à Votre Excellence, pour prier le Gouvernement Egyptien de bien vouloir accorder à la dite expédition liberté de passage à travers le territoire Egyptien pour arriver en Abyssinie, et aussi d'accorder toutes facilités et bons offices aux Officiers chargés de la direction de cette expédition. No. 51.

Convaincu du reste que les bonnes relations qui ont si longtemps existé entre nos Gouvernements respectifs, auront un prompt accueil de la part de Son Altesse le Vice Roi à cette demande,

Je saisis, &c.,

T. F. READE.

No. 293.

The Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Received September 10th, 1867.

My Lord,

Alexandria, August 31st, 1867.

With reference to my telegram of yesterday, regarding the telegraphic communication between Lower Egypt and Nubia, it may be well, perhaps, that I should state, in explanation of the slow progress that is made in laying down a line to Souakin, that, owing partly to negligence and general bad management on the part of the Egyptian authorities, and partly to misfortunes which it was impossible to foresee, the works have, on various occasions, and at different points of the line, been suspended. In laying down about 80 miles of line across the desert (from Souakin, and in the direction of Kassala), no less than 1,500 camels were allowed to die of starvation, and the two Englishmen who until lately directed the work in that part of the country fell, during the same period, victims to the effects of climate. An extensive gap in the line, between Wady Halfa and Oorbi, has been occasioned by the white ants which infest that region. It was found that no wooden posts could resist the ravages of these insects, which eat into, and in the course of a few hours effectually destroy, as far as the surface of the earth, any piece of timber that is fixed in the ground. Six thousand iron posts, to replace the wooden ones ordered from Europe several months ago, have not yet arrived. No. 131.

From Oorbi, which is 260 miles distant from Wady Halfa, to Ambacol, that is to say, along a space of 120 miles, the line is completed, and it is in course of construction from the latter place to Berber, which is 170 miles further; from Berber to Shendy, 110 miles, and from Shendy to Kassala, 200 miles, there is nothing done. Of the remaining distance to Souakin, about 120 miles have yet to be laid down.

From Kench on the Nile, or Assonan, to Cossia, or Berenice, on the Red Sea, there are regular caravan routes, and, the distance between these places being inconsiderable, a line along one or other of the routes could be laid down in the course of a few weeks. Such a project has frequently been entertained by the Egyptian Government, but I do not believe there is any likelihood of its being carried into execution.

I have, &c.,

T. F. READE.

No. 294.

The Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Received September 10th, 1867.

My Lord,

Alexandria, 30th August 1867.

It has occurred to me, with reference to the projected military expedition to Abyssinia, that the services of an officer on the Consular Staff in Egypt, who has been long and intimately associated with the Barbary States and speaks the Arabic language fluently, would, if he were attached directly to that expedition, be of some use to Her Majesty's Government. His Egyptian experience could be availed of whenever any reference to this country should become necessary, while, on the other hand, some advantage might hereafter accrue to the public service from the knowledge he would

acquire by personal observation of the social and political condition of a country with which, in consequence of its vicinity, he is in frequent communication.

I venture, therefore, in the event of the said expedition taking place, to place my humble services at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government, and trust that, should such a contingency arise, your Lordship will graciously allow me to absent myself from the post I have the honour to fill, and accompany the expedition in such capacity as your Lordship may think proper.

I have, &c.,
THOS. F. READE.

No. 295.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 10th September 1867.

No. 283.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Abbott, the Acting Resident at Aden, giving intelligence concerning the captives detained in Abyssinia up to the 1st of July last, and of the present position of King Theodore.

Nos. 292 to 294.

I am further to transmit to you copies of three Despatches from the Acting British Consul-General at Alexandria, the first enclosing copy of the note which he addressed to the Egyptian Government applying for permission for the expedition to Abyssinia to pass through Egyptian territory, the second conveying information relative to the line of telegraph which is in course of construction between Lower Egypt and Souakin, and the third applying to be allowed to accompany the projected expedition to Abyssinia.

With reference to this last Despatch, I am to state that Lord Stanley conceives that Mr. Reade would probably be more useful to Her Majesty's Government if he were to remain at his post in Egypt, but his Lordship would wish to be informed of Sir Stafford Northcote's opinion on the subject before replying to Mr. Reade's Despatch.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 296.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will be so good as to inform him whether, in their opinion, the distilling apparatus which is likely to be most serviceable for the use of the ships employed on the Abyssinian expedition, or in the harbours of the Red Sea, is that on Grant's or Normandy's principle.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 297.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 10th September, 1867.

No. 236.

In reference to your letter, dated 6th instant, I am instructed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that, in accordance with the desire of Sir Stafford Northcote, the number of corn sacks has been reduced to 5,000 in lieu of 10,000 as originally ordered.

The list of stores sent you has been corrected, and is returned herewith.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 297.

Memorandum of certain Stores demanded by the Commissariat Department.

To be sent to Alexandria (consigned to the Senior Commissariat Officer) :
 Sacks, corn, 4 bushels each - - - - - 5,000
 For Mediterranean stations: viz., 500 to each port (consigned to the Senior
 Commissariat Officer at each), and a reserve :—
 Sacks, corn, 4 bushels - - - - - 4,500
 For the seven transport ships, viz., 1,000 to each vessel to be in charge of the
 several Masters :—
 Sacks, corn, 4 bushels - - - - - 7,000
 For Alexandria (consigned to the Senior Commissariat Officer) :—
 Scales, beam (10 cwt. with boards), and weights, complete - - - - - 4
 Machines, weighing, portable, to weigh 5 cwts. (on four wheels) - - - - - 4

No. 298.

The Assistant Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Horse Guards, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that His Royal Highness has, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, submitted for Her Majesty's approval, the following Brevet promotions.

Brevet.

The under-mentioned Officers to have the temporary rank respectively assigned them while employed with the Abyssinian expeditionary force :—

Brevet Colonel, with the rank of Brigadier-General, Sir Charles William Dunbar Staveley, K.C.B., half pay Lieutenant-Colonel, late 44th Foot, to be Major-General.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Merewether, C.B., Bombay Staff Corps, to be Colonel.

I have, &c.,
 E. B. JOHNSON, Colonel,
 for the Military Secretary.

No. 299.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 10, 1867.

With reference to Mr. Hammond's letter of the 6th instant, and to former correspondence, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for War, despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls at Malaga, Cadiz, Genoa, and Alicante, relative to the purchase of mules for the use of the projected expedition to Abyssinia. No. 231.

The inclosed papers being sent in original, I am to request that they may be returned to this Office when done with.

I am, &c.,
 JAMES MURRAY.

No. 300.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Resident at Aden.

Sir, India Office, 10th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to enclose a letter (sealed),* addressed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to His Majesty Theodore, King of Abyssinia, and to request that you will take charge of the

* This letter was afterwards cancelled, and another for-

warded by the
mail of the
18th of Sep-
tember. See
Enclosure in
No. 408.

letter, awaiting the receipt of instructions from his Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, K.C.B., respecting its disposal.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 301.

In reply to
No. 255.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 11th, 1867.

A letter to King Theodore from Lord Stanley, naming Sir Robert Napier, goes to Aden by this mail.* If Sir R. Napier think proper, he can make a peremptory demand in anticipation of the letter, and deliver the letter itself in such manner and at such time as he may deem right.

The tenor of the letter from Lord Stanley is that, as remonstrances have failed, the matter has been placed in the hands of Sir R. Napier.

* This letter
was afterwards
cancelled, and
another for-
warded by the
mail of the
18th of Sep-
tember. See
Enclosure in
No. 408.

No. 302.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 11th September 1867.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying copy of the instructions which have been issued to Captain Tryon, R.N., the officer about to take charge of the transport service afloat in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

Enclosure in No. 302.

Memorandum of Instructions to Captain TRYON.

Admiralty, Somerset House, 10th September 1867.

In pursuance of their Lordships' orders, you are to proceed by the next mail, *via* Marseilles, to Bombay, to report yourself to Commodore Heath, and take charge of the duties of the transport service afloat in connexion with the expedition preparing for Abyssinia, subject, at all times, to such further orders as you may, from time to time, receive from the Commodore or other your superior Officer.

Having inspected the ships fitting in this country, you are aware of their capabilities; and you will be furnished with a list of the provisions and stores they are conveying.

It will be your duty to make yourself conversant with the terms of engagement or charter-parties of all hired ships, those taken up by the Government of Bombay as well as those engaged by this Department; and, whilst looking to the best interests of the service, in the efficiency of the ships, you will make it your duty to study economy, and represent, when necessary, the expediency or otherwise of discharging any particular ship or ships.

Coal has been provided at the Cape of Good Hope and Simon's Bay, also at Bombay by the Government of India; and at Aden you will draw such supplies as may be necessary from the stores of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, who have undertaken to supply it.

A steamer will be provided by the Bombay Government for yourself and staff, from which vessel you will conduct all your duties, complying with the printed instructions of their Lordships, copies of which have been furnished to you, as well as copies of the Instructions to Masters of Transports, and copies of the Regulations for Her Majesty's Transport Service, with such other forms and documents as are necessary to you in the performance of your duties.

No. 303.

Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to the Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs. Received September 11th, 1867.

My Lord,

Constantinople, 3d September 1867.

I have had the honour to receive by Messenger Webster your Despatches to August 22d inclusive.

As instructed by your Lordship's Despatch of August 22d, I lost no time in notifying to the Porte, by an official note and by a personal visit yesterday to Fuad Pasha, the fact of Her Majesty's Government having determined to resort to force for the purpose of procuring the release of the persons detained in captivity by King Theodore of Abyssinia.

Nos. 63 to
65.

No. 63.

I briefly exposed the circumstances, then but slightly known to His Highness, which had obliged Her Majesty's Government to adopt this measure, and I expressed a hope that every facility would be afforded by the Sultan and the Viceroy of Egypt for the passage of Her Majesty's troops through Ottoman territory. To this His Highness answered, that with regard to Egypt he apprehended there could be no obstacle, and that a letter should be addressed to the Viceroy on the subject, but that if any other parts of the Ottoman territory were to be crossed by Her Majesty's forces it was desirable they should be distinctly specified beforehand.

With reference to the use of the Syrian Coast telegraphic line, His Highness did not see any obstacle whatever to its free use for the purpose of telegraphic communication between Suez and Bombay, *via* Bagdad, by Her Majesty's servants. At my request, he promised to communicate with the telegraphic administration, for the purpose of ascertaining what special facilities could properly be given in this respect to Her Majesty's Consuls at Beyrout and Bagdad.

I have also, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, officially and verbally No. 65. requested the Porte to instruct the Turkish authorities in Arabia to give their utmost assistance to the officers sent to Arabia with a view to procure beasts of burden for the use of Her Majesty's army in the East. Fuad Pacha promised to move for the despatch of orders accordingly by telegraph to Bagdad; that, with regard to Yemen and the Hadjaz, which were not connected with the capital by telegraph, he would send me vizirial letters addressed to the Governors of those Provinces. On receipt of these letters, I purpose to enclose them to Her Majesty's Consul at Jedda, for transmission to their destination.

Previously to the receipt of your Lordship's letter of August 22d, I had been in No. 65. correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul at Bagdad, and had procured the despatch of an order from the Porte to the Governor-General granting facilities for the sale of transport mules belonging to the garrison. On receipt of the official answers to my applications I shall not delay in sending to your Lordship copies of them, as well as of my three notes.

I have, &c.,
H. P. BARRON.

No. 304.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 11th, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at No. 303. Constantinople, reporting the steps he has taken to obtain from the Porte facilities for the expedition to Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 305.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.*

Sir,

India Office, 11th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, copy of a Despatch addressed to the No. 193. Government of Bombay, by the last mail, on the subject of the expedition to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

* Similar letter to the Horse Guards.

No. 306.

In reply to
No. 203.

Telegram from the Government of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 11th, 1867.

It would, of course, be better to have trained mules, but, if they are not obtainable, we must have all the animals you can get, and do the best we can with them. There is great difficulty in the Persian Gulf, in consequence of the sudden establishment of quarantine, and therefore we require every animal that can be procured. Sir Robert Napier will not have Cavalry brigades, but Merewether should still have local rank, I think.

No. 307.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 11th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and, with reference to the last paragraph, to draw the attention of the Secretary of State for War to the absolute necessity of holding in reserve a supply of the Snider ammunition for the use of the British troops to be employed in Abyssinia, for whose use also a supply of Snider rifles has recently been despatched to Bombay.

I have &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 308.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 11th September 1867.

No. 247.

With reference to my letter of the 7th instant, suggesting, for Sir Stafford Northcote's consideration, whether the number (seven) of transports originally agreed upon for the conveyance of mules to Alexandria should not be adhered to, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will inform Sir Stafford Northcote that the result of communications received since from abroad is to show that, for the present, five vessels will be sufficient for this service, any additional freight that may be required being obtained on the spot, if possible, from Brindisi and the Levant ports to Alexandria direct.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 309.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 11th September 1867.

No. 265.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, forwarding copy of a letter from Mr. Henry Banister on the subject of the force proposed for the contemplated expedition to Abyssinia.

2. In reply, I am instructed to state that a copy of Mr. Banister's letter and memorandum will be forwarded for the information of the Government of Bombay and Sir Robert Napier, in whose hands the organization of the force has been placed.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 310.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 11th September 1867.

No. 271.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that he concurs

in the opinion expressed by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, that 1,000 rounds per gun should be prepared for the two batteries of 7-pounder mountain guns for service in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 311.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 11th September 1867.

With reference to the proposed supply of pack-saddles for mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that, before any further steps are taken in the matter, the Ordnance Select Committee may be called upon to inspect the present pattern of pack-saddle, according to which it is proposed to make the supply, and to report upon its suitability for the purpose; and also, in the event of their objecting to it in its present form and material, to suggest a modification or a description of saddle in substitution, stating how soon they are of opinion that the requisite number of saddles of such pattern could be got ready.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 312.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 11th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, that he approves of your having authorized the supply of rice for the Abyssinian transports in consequence of the inability of the manufacturers to obtain the requisite quantity of preserved potato and compressed vegetables. No. 266.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 313.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. Dr. KRAFF to the Private Secretary of the Secretary of State for India, dated Kornthal, near Stuttgart, 11th September 1867.

As promised in my brief notice of yesterday, I have the honour herewith to detail my humble reply to your letter dated the 5th instant.

Whilst thanking most respectfully for the great confidence Her Majesty's Government has reposed in me, I beg to reply that I am most ready to fulfil the wishes expressed by the Bombay Government and by Sir Stafford Northcote. I shall endeavour to the utmost of my power to promote the objects of Her Majesty's force destined to Abyssinia, whether it be in the capacity of a dragoman, or in whatever mode my energies may be required. See No. 9.

The services I have rendered to His Excellency the Ambassador, Sir William Harris, in Shoa (Southern Abyssinia), and which the Bombay Government in 1842 very honourably has acknowledged by a note of thanks, guarantee the hope that my accompanying the contemplated expedition to western Abyssinia, will realize again the confidence Her Majesty's Government has placed in me.

Afflicting as, in everybody's opinion, the causes are which have occasioned this Abyssinian expedition, yet I rejoice at having an opportunity again to manifest the grateful feelings I entertain towards Her Majesty's Government for the powerful protection and assistance which Her officers have given me on my various travels in Eastern Africa during a period of 18 years.

But, whilst I readily offer my services for the Abyssinian campaign, I may be permitted to state, with all candour, a few conditions, which I beg you will kindly submit to Sir Stafford Northcote's consideration, and that he may condescend to transmit to me a satisfactory reply before I can, with an easy mind, leave my family and home, and seize again my travelling staff toward the land of my former wanderings and recollections.

First. I would be highly obliged if Sir Stafford Northcote would condescend to point out to me, somewhat explicitly, the task I have to perform during my connexion with the expedition, in order that I may be able to support correctly my responsibilities, and may judge whether I am adequate for the task, it being a fundamental principle of a wise man not to overrate his capabilities. I guess my task would chiefly consist in the work of a writing and speaking dragoman of the Amharic language, being the principal tongue throughout Abyssinia, besides in giving information on the habits and matters of the Abyssinians, especially in as far as this information could likely promote the success of the expedition; in fact I believe the task I had to perform under Major Harris will be reiterated, of course with regard to the peculiar circumstances of a military expedition.

Secondly. I beg to consider that, though my means of support for myself and family are sufficient in the ordinary way, I am not prepared for bearing the expense of an extraordinary enterprise, comprising a journey of 1,500 leagues from Kornthal. When travelling in Abyssinia at a former period I was supported by the Church Missionary Society, in whose service I then was; but since my return to Europe this connexion has ceased, at my own request, and of course, also my former stipend was discontinued. Left, therefore, to my own resources, I would be unable to accomplish an enterprise which would cost me, forwards and backwards, at least 600*l.*, notwithstanding the free station I might enjoy from any of the rulers of Abyssinia.

Thirdly. Whilst being connected with the force, by sea and by land, I take it for granted that I would meet with a friendly treatment from the leading authorities, as was the case with Sir William Harris, who, being dead, yet lives in my grateful remembrance for his considerate and condescending conduct throughout.

Fourthly. As soon as the expedition has obtained its main objects, I may presume to obtain permission for returning home, as the care for my family (a sickly wife and uneducated offspring), as well as my present extensive occupation, does not allow a too protracted absence.

Fifthly. That it may please Sir Stafford Northcote to inform me, as early as convenient, whether he will condescend to accede to my proposed terms, and at what time he wishes that I should depart. I guess the force will be collected at Massowa about the first of December, and move inland before the rain is falling heavily on the coast region, which occupies about 25 or 30 leagues, from east to west, being the country independent on Abyssinia proper, which begins with the high land of 5,000 or 6,000 feet (above the sea), where there is no rain in December and January; the rainy seasons have ceased there in September. Supposed I would start at the end of October, I could easily arrive at Massowa before the expedition leaves that island, always provided that I can have the use of an English or Egyptian steamer bound direct from Suez for Massowa, being distant about three or four days by steam. Should I be obliged to use an Arab or even a European sailing vessel I could not (or hardly) reach Massowa before the lapse of 30 days.

Lastly. I would be much obliged if, with the final answer of Sir Stafford Northcote, he would condescend to transmit to me a bill authorizing me to draw half of the sum which Her Majesty's Government may vote for my accompanying the expedition, whilst the other half may be granted on my returning from Abyssinia to Europe. As soon as I have received that previous bill I shall make my preparations and equipment with all possible speed. When connected with the expedition I, of course, expect to find free station, as the nature of a campaign in an uncivilized country may allow. I feel sure Her Majesty's Commander-in-Chief will never be troubled by any undue pretension on my part, nor will he have to complain of me for want of obedience, due respect, discretion, and the display of all my energies under all circumstances, sickness excepted.

By way of a general remark I may be allowed to add that I do not think that the expedition will be of long duration. The King, in his present weakened position at Debra Tabor and Caffat, will scarcely venture upon fighting a battle against disciplined troops, though his unlimited pride might induce him to make the attempt, in order to obtain, if

possible, a number of white men as prisoners, whom he would cruelly put to death. He will have his chief resource to his usual tactics of stratagems and sudden and unexpected attacks, by which he gained his numerous victories over rival chiefs, who, on the approach of the English force, will no doubt hail its arrival, though we must not be too sanguine about this point, as the history of nations shows that, disunited as they may be among themselves, yet they may easily combine against a foreign invader. The Abyssinian fundamental character being a compound of contrarieties, they might easily join the English at first, and subsequently oppose them in connexion with the King, whom at present they do hate to the utmost. It is, therefore, a wise precaution on the part of Her Majesty's Government to appear with forces superior also in number, otherwise a but small force would be required, if the matter were only between the English and the King's army.

The mountainous quality of the land will cause some difficulty and delay, but the force having made its way through the country of the nomadic Shoho tribes, occupying the country between Massowa and Abyssinia proper, at the distance of 25 or 30 leagues (which tribes are independent on Abyssinia, and belong to the Turkish Government, and will therefore give no trouble, their beggaries excepted), will make progress as soon as it will have reached, in two divisions, the high land at Halai and Kaith Kar. At the height of 5,000 to 6,000 feet it will be favoured by a healthy and cool climate, by a tolerably level terrain, and by fresh provisions of wheat, barley, and cattle, which especially the productive province of Hamattien will afford. From Halai and Kaith Kar there is a distance of another 25 leagues to Adoa (the capital of Tigré), being situated in a plain which runs into the splendid plain of Axum, whence the road leads to the river Takassie, being distant from Adoa about 25 or 30 leagues. The Takassie running between a deep but narrow valley, the King might make resistance on its western banks, if he does resist at all, but the artillery and rifles can easily dislodge him. The Takassie having been crossed, the Amhara country lies open and presents little difficulties against quick movements. About 30 leagues from the Takassie, toward the south-west, there is Debra Tabor and Gaffat, which latter place he has fortified (according to Abyssinian notion) on account of his arsenal. Thus there are about 250 English miles (100 leagues) from Massowa to the head-quarters of Theodorus, and 50 miles more to Magdala, where the captives are.

No. 314.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, Somerset House,

11th September 1867.

I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, in answer to your letter of the 9th instant, that passage to Bombay for Veterinary Surgeon Lamb, and Conductor J. Henderson has been ordered on board the contract mail steam packet which will leave Southampton on the 27th instant, and for Conductor W. Lee in that which will leave Marseilles on the 20th instant. No. 270.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDS.

No. 315.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, Somerset House,

11th September 1867.

I beg to forward herewith a letter from Messrs. A. Brett & Co., offering a small twin screw tug boat and three barges, fully equipped, and capable of carrying stores or troops, and which can be delivered at Aden in about 50 days.

I request you will be pleased to inform me whether it is considered that such an offer is deserving of being entertained.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDS.

No. 316.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 11th September 1867.

No. 240.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a telegram has been received from the Government of Bombay, asking to have the following maps:—" Fifty copies of Moresby's large scale Chart of Red Sea; Admiralty " Chart of Red Sea; Harbours of Red Sea, north and south; Gulf of Aden;" and I am, accordingly, desired to request that they may be supplied to this Office as soon as possible, for transmission to India.

2. On learning that they can be furnished, Sir Stafford Northcote will direct the usual requisition to be sent by the Director General of Stores.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 317.

In reply to
No. 73.

Telegram from the Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Alexandria, 11th September 1867.

Only 8,000 or 10,000 Maria Theresa dollars to be found nere. Quoted at 20½ piastres against English sovereigns at 97½ piastres. Unlimited supply procurable at Vienna. Bank of Egypt promised to obtain dollars in exchange for bills on Paymaster-General. Banking commission $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; bill brokerage 1 per mille.

No. 318.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 12th September 1867.

No. 230.

No. 317.

With reference to my letter of the 6th instant, I am directed by Lord Stanley to state to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that the Acting British Consul-General in Egypt has reported that only eight or ten thousand " Maria Theresa dollars " are to be found at Alexandria, and that they are quoted at 20½ piastres, against English sovereigns at 97½ piastres. Mr. Reade further states that the banks of Egypt have promised to obtain dollars in exchange for bills on Her Majesty's Paymaster-General, with a banking brokerage of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and bill brokerage 1 per mille.

I am, &c.,

E. HAMMOND.

No. 319.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 12th September 1867.

No. 264.

No. 308.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that, by a communication which has been received from the War Office, he has been informed that, for the present, five vessels will be sufficient for the transport of mules to Alexandria.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 320.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 12th September 1867.

With reference to Mr. Thom's letter of the 31st ultimo, enclosing copy of a letter which the Secretary of State for India had addressed to the Military Secretary, relative to the provision of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men for service with the mountain train batteries to be attached to the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of Sir Stafford Northcote, that the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has selected Lieutenants Nolan and Chapman, of the Royal Artillery, for this service.

No. 153.
No. 152.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 321.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 12th, 1867.

With reference to telegram about bamboo poles for telegraph, does it refer to telegraph No. 280. to Souakin or field telegraph? *

No. 322.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 12th, 1867.

In reply to
No. 274.

Captain Willoughby may draw bills, to the extent which you have authorized, on London or Bombay, as the rate of exchange may make it desirable.

No. 323.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 12th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that it is probable that both the mountain batteries which it has been determined to send to Abyssinia will be ready by the 4th of October. The estimated tonnage of the two batteries is under 30 tons, but the actual measurement shall be ascertained and reported as soon as possible.

2. In the meantime I am desired to inquire whether arrangements can be made for their transport to Bombay by the troop ship leaving Portsmouth on the 9th of October.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 324.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 12th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, stating that Sir Henry James, the Director of

No. 196.

* This inquiry was caused by an error at the India Office in quoting the date of the previous telegram. See No. 335.

the Topographical Department, has suggested that the expedition to Abyssinia should be accompanied by a small topographical staff, for the purpose of making maps of the country, and recommending an officer for this duty.

2. In reply, I am directed to observe that the suggestion appears to Sir Stafford Northcote to be a very judicious one; but he has no doubt that arrangements will be made by the authorities in Bombay for the provision of this, as well as other branches of the staff for the expedition.

3. Sir Stafford Northcote considers it desirable that the selection of officers to serve with the expedition should be left as much as possible in the hands of the authorities in Bombay, to whom, however, your letter will be referred.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 325.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 12th September 1867.

No. 297.

Adverting to the list of corn sacks enclosed in my letter dated 10th instant, I am now directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of Sir Stafford Northcote, that, in consequence of the reduction of mule transports from seven to five, the following disposition of corn sacks has been made:

1,300 sacks in each ship consigned to Commissariat Officer	-	6,500
1,000 sacks to be in each ship in charge of masters	-	5,000

Total number	-	-	11,500
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originally ordered for the mule ships.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 326.

Colonel E. WRAY, C.B., to the Military Secretary, India Office.

My dear General Pears,

12th September 1867.

No. 327.

The Ordnance Select Committee have to-day decided that the *new* Otago pattern saddle shall go with the Abyssinian expedition, and have stopped all further shipments.

5,000 new saddles to be ready in six weeks.

The Committee declined to go into shipments already made.

There are, it appears, on board the "Golden Fleece," in the Victoria Docks, 399 saddles, in 133 cases; and I am strongly of opinion that they should, if possible, be relanded, being thoroughly convinced that the service saddle is unfit for service.

Yours, &c.,

E. WRAY.

No. 327.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 12th September 1867.

No. 267.

In reference to my letter of the 9th instant, I am desired by Secretary Sir John Pakington to forward to you herewith copies of reports from the Committee appointed to consider the nature of pack-saddles which should be supplied for service of the Abyssinian expedition.

The reports of Colonel Wray and Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, respecting the "Otago pack-saddle," being of a very favourable nature, I am to suggest that, if the Secretary of State for India in Council approves of the substitution of this pack-saddle for those of the service pattern already ordered, from Woolwich, you will move Sir Stafford Northcote to give directions for the purchase of such number of these pack-saddles as may be required, from the trade.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 327.

Memorandum by Mr. BAILEY and Colonel WRAY.

September 10th, 1867.

Mr. Aspinall states that, in his opinion, the saddle shown as a sample of 5,000 in store in the Royal Arsenal is totally unfit for Commissariat purposes, although they might be very useful for carrying the sick or small arm ammunition.

He also considers them unnecessarily heavy, and almost certain to produce sore backs and sore sides when the animals are the least out of condition.

Mr. Aspinall will call on Sir John Pakington and explain matters more in detail, at the same time suggesting a remedy.

J. W. BAILEY,
Assistant Commissary-General.
E. WRAY.

Enclosure 2 in No. 327.

Mr. BAILEY to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

War Office, London, 11th September 1867.

In accordance with instructions received from Sir W. T. Power, K.C.B., I proceeded yesterday to Woolwich Arsenal, and, in company with Colonel Wray and Mr. Aspinall, inspected a pack-saddle of the same pattern as those of which there are 5,000 now being prepared for shipment for the Abyssinian expedition; we also inspected a saddle made on the pattern of one sent by myself from New Zealand, which is known as the "Otago saddle." The conclusion I came to, after seeing the two saddles, is, that the Otago saddle is really a serviceable and useful article of equipment, and, from my personal experience in New Zealand, I know can be carried by pack animals with very little injury to their backs. *Vide* my report accompanying the Otago saddle when sent to the War Office. Whilst, on the contrary, what is called the service pattern pack-saddle, and now being packed for shipment, would, in my opinion, render very many of the pack animals unserviceable, or possibly useless, from sore backs, after a few days' work.

The Otago saddle was easily constructed in New Zealand, and I imagine a few thousand could be manufactured in England at a short notice.

I have, &c.,
J. W. BAILEY,
Assistant Commissary-General.

Enclosure 3 in No. 327.

Mr. ASPINALL to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

London, 12th September 1867.

I have the honour to inform you that I visited Woolwich Arsenal on Tuesday the 10th instant, for the purpose of inspecting the pack-saddles about to be sent out to Abyssinia, and was there met by Colonel Wray, Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, and Captain Gordon, who showed me a pack-saddle said to be one of 5,000 then ready for shipment; I examined it most carefully and saw it adjusted to a mule's back, and my opinion is, that it is totally unfit for the Commissariat Department, in fact, that it is practically useless except for the carrying of sick and wounded soldiers; it is cumbersome in the extreme, weighing 51 lbs., and is so constructed that it is certain to cause sore backs and sides, more particularly so when the mules are hard worked and get into low condition. I would venture to urge upon you the folly of sending out these saddles, *as I feel quite certain they cannot be used.* The saddles I recommend are similar to those used in Spain and Mexico, they are perfectly easy on the mules, never give sore backs or sides, enable the animals to carry 30 or 40 per cent. more weight, and in fact are superior in every way to any others.

I have, &c.,
JOSEPH ASPINALL.

Enclosure 4 in No. 327.

Colonel WRAY to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Woolwich, 12th September 1867.

As the Officer deputed in the absence of General Willoughby to report on the pack-saddles for Abyssinia, I willingly endorse the opinion of Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, to prepare, without loss of time, as many saddles as may be considered necessary for general service purposes in that country.

His experience of the present service saddle in New Zealand, even if I had not myself observed its imperfections, would be a sufficient warrant for doubting its efficiency; and to jeopardize an expedition, the success of which so materially depends on this particular mode of transport and the correct fit of the saddles, for any consideration of economy, would be the worst possible policy.

The introduction of the Otago pattern saddles for future manufacture and use in the service has been virtually decided by the trials at Aldershot and the opinion of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief; and for this particular service another forcible reason for its immediate adoption exists in the fact of its being "rideable," an advantage which may be of incalculable importance, on emergency for pushing troops over forced marches in a country so notoriously difficult as Abyssinia.

I append Mr. Aspinall's statement given before the meeting at which he, Mr. Bailey, and myself attended on the 10th instant.

I cannot agree with that gentleman, in thinking that the Government saddles might be useful for carrying the sick, or small arm ammunition, although totally unfit for Commissariat purposes.

The bad point in the Government saddle, being mainly in the trees, would tell as seriously in the one case as the other.

I would beg to notice two circumstances connected with the condemnation of the Government pack-saddle in New Zealand, which I think should be recorded, although, perhaps, they should only be taken for what they are worth in considering the important question of providing new saddles for this occasion.

1st. That the change to the Otago pattern would appear to have originated from faults discovered in Government saddles of a pattern somewhat different from the present service saddle.

Mr. Bailey will explain this.

2d. That they were condemned for not fitting horses, whereas they were originally designed solely and entirely for the backs of mules.

E. WRAY, Colonel,
Royal Artillery.

No. 328.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 12th September 1867.

No. 316.

In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Secretary of State for India, that the charts of the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, &c., therein alluded to, required for transmission to India, for service on the Abyssinian expedition, can be supplied, and will be ready by Monday next, the 16th instant.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 329.

The Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
Received September 12, 1867.

My Lord,

Alexandria, September 3d, 1867.

No. 161.

The following telegram from Chérif Pasha reached me at Cairo yesterday, and was immediately forwarded to your Lordship in a condensed form, as reported in my Despatch No. 25 of this day.

"Le Gouvernement Egyptien permet avec grand plaisir le passage tel qu'il est demandé dans votre dépêche officielle. Il est heureux de prouver en cette occasion, comme en toutes autres, tout le prix qu'il attache à l'amitié et bonnes relations qui existent entre les deux pays. Des Officiers seront envoyés à Massowah exprès. La Compagnie* louera avec plaisir les bateaux dont elle dispose dans la Mer Rouge; son Directeur a reçu des instructions en conséquence."

On my return here this morning, I called upon His Excellency, and thanked him, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, for the permission of passage given, and other facilities promised, by the Egyptian Government with regard to the projected expedition

* The Azizia Company.

to Abyssinia, adding that in doing so I felt I only anticipated your Lordship's instructions to the same effect.

The Pasha had already notified to me that the Egyptian Fleet in the Red Sea was placed by the Viceroy at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government in case of need; and I have since been informed by His Excellency that the permission for which I had by your Lordship's instructions applied, with regard to the laying down of a line of telegraph between Souakin and Massowah, is also gladly accorded by His Highness. See No. 227.

I have, &c.,
THOS. F. READE.

No. 330.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, India Office, 13th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that, as objections have been raised to the form of saddle which is being provided for the expedition to Abyssinia, you will suspend all further shipments of such saddles, and, if possible, direct those which are already shipped to be relanded.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 331.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 13th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, forwarding copies of reports from the Committee appointed to consider the nature of pack-saddles which should be supplied for the service of the Abyssinian expedition, suggesting the substitution of the pack-saddle known as the "Otago pack-saddle" for those of the service pattern already ordered from Woolwich. No. 327.

2. In reply, I am desired to state that Sir Stafford Northcote concurs in the above suggestion, and requests that the order for the supply of the pack-saddles from Woolwich may be cancelled.

3. Instructions will be given to the India Office Store Department for the necessary supply of pack-saddles of the approved pattern.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 332.

The Assistant Director of Ordnance to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Pall Mall, 13th September 1867.

In forwarding the accompanying copy of a report from the Ordnance Select Committee on the subject of the pattern pack-saddle which they consider best suited for supply to the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Sir John Pakington to request that you will suggest to the Secretary of State for India in Council that the Committee's recommendation should be carried out.

I am, &c.,
H. DYER.

Enclosure in No. 332.

Report of Ordnance Select Committee, dated 13th September 1867.

Supply of Pack-saddles for service in Abyssinia. Proposed adoption of the Otago pattern.

No. 311.

The Committee have the honour to report that, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State for War, they proceeded with Assistant Commissary-General Bailey and Captain Fenn to consider the several questions referred to in the letter from the India Office of the 11th instant, in respect to the proposed supply of pack-saddles for the Abyssinian expedition.

After a careful consideration of the subject, the Committee have come to the opinion that it is desirable to at once decide upon adopting the Otago pattern pack-saddle, furnished from New Zealand in March 1866, with the slight alteration in the sweep of the side bearing, with the points turned up, proposed by Captain Fenn, so as to afford further relief to the animal's withers; and their reasons for the change are as follows:—

1st. They consider that the Otago pattern pack-saddle is so arranged that the weight of the load is taken on the animal's back on a long bearing, relieving the withers from any undue strain, and, therefore, reducing the chance of a sore back to a minimum.

2dly, and principally. Because, from the evidence of Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, it appears that this description of pack-saddle has undergone a severe trial in New Zealand, under varying circumstances and for a long continuance, and that, with the exception of two or three cases of sore backs amongst the animals, the trial was eminently satisfactory. The trials which have recently taken place at Aldershot and Woolwich are also most favourable to this construction.

The Committee are satisfied that the Otago pattern pack-saddle is decidedly preferable to the present service pattern, and they recommend that it be adopted in lieu of it.

The Committee are informed by the Principal Superintendent of Stores that, in his opinion, of the requisite number of pack-saddles required for the Abyssinian equipment (viz., 5,000) a large proportion could probably be supplied in a month, and the whole completed within six weeks from the date of order, provided that the Indian Store Department take prompt action, and employ well-known contractors without restriction; and, as the Superintendent, Royal Carriage Department, has stated that his Department will not be able to undertake the manufacture of the requisite supply, the Committee recommend that it be obtained from the trade in the most expeditious manner possible.

In anticipation of approval of this course, the Committee have taken steps for the immediate preparation, by the Saddlery Department (Military Store), of pattern saddles in quadruplicate to guide manufacture.

The patterns are to consist of three sizes, and the Committee recommend that no contractor have more than 500 saddles allotted to him at one time.

FREDK. H. KERR, Vice-President,
Captain, R.N.

No. 333.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 13th September 1867.

No. 306.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward the accompanying extract from a telegram received yesterday morning from Bombay, relating to the probable utility of untrained mules, and I am to request that Sir Stafford Northcote may be informed of the progress that has been made in the collection of these animals, and that similar reports may be communicated to him from time to time, as received from the Officers employed in their collection and purchase.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 334.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 13th September 1867.

No. 277.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, forwarding copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Stuttgart, containing information respecting an individual who, it is conceived, might be of service in the Abyssinian expedition.

2. In reply, I am desired to request that Lord Stanley will be good enough to cause a copy of these papers to be communicated to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt, with a request that inquiry may be made respecting Contarini, the individual referred to, and that, if considered desirable, his services may be at once engaged for employment as

a guide and interpreter with the force, and that he may be brought to Cairo and detained there, pending the receipt of instructions from Sir Robert Napier respecting his disposal.

3. A copy of the correspondence will be forwarded to Bombay; and I am to suggest that Her Majesty's Consul-General may be requested to inform the Government of Bombay direct of the result of his inquiries in the matter.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 335.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 13th, 1867.

Your message of yesterday as to bamboo poles, received. I referred to field tele- No. 321.
graph. See my message of twenty-second, and your reply received on twenty-ninth No. 62.
August. No. 128.

No. 336.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 13th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 3d, 6th, and 12th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the Lords of the Treasury having, in a letter dated the 27th ultimo, requested that "Austrian specie dollars, or whatever other coins may be current in Abyssinia," might "be procured by the Indian Department" for the Abyssinian expedition, instructions were given to the authorities at the Bank of England to adopt measures for the purchase in Austria of supplies of Maria Theresa dollars, and for their shipment *via* Trieste and Alexandria to Aden. Nos. 184, 229, and 318. No. 86.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has, therefore, at present no occasion to avail himself of the offer contained in your letters under reply; but, should it be necessary to apply for the assistance of the Austrian Government in view to the coinage of special supplies of the dollars, Sir Stafford Northcote will again address you on the subject.

I have, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 337.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir, India Office, 13th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves No. 302.
of the instructions issued to Captain Tryon, R.N., with reference to the transport service of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 338.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 13th September 1867.

With reference to Major-General Pears's letter of the 2d instant, conveying No. 173.
Sir Stafford Northcote's approval of the arrangements proposed by the Director-General

of the Army Medical Department in connexion with the hospital ships of the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of Sir Stafford Northcote, the accompanying copy of a letter received at the Horse Guards from the Army Medical Department, detailing the names of the Medical Officers who have been selected for service with the Abyssinian expedition.

With reference to the last part of Dr. Balfour's letter, I am to suggest, for Sir Stafford Northcote's consideration, the expediency of the Bombay Government being requested by telegraph to state what assistance they will require from this country in regard to medical staff, equipment, or material.

I am, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 338.

The Acting Director-General of the Army Medical Department to the Military Secretary,
Horse Guards.

Sir,

Army Medical Department, 11th September 1867.

I am instructed by the Director-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 11th instant, and in reply I have the honour to state, for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, that the names of the Medical Officers selected for service with the Abyssinian expedition are, viz.,

Surgeons :

G. P. M. Woodward,
S. Roch,
J. S. Chartres.

Assistant Surgeons :

E. Fairland,
W. J. Wheeler,
P. Murphy.

The three Surgeons have been already ordered to report themselves at Deptford, and their Assistants will do so as soon as the date fixed for the departure of the ships has been made known. The Non-commissioned Officers and men of the Army Hospital Corps will also be named and directed to join when the vessels are in a condition to receive them. With regard to the appointment of Sanitary Officer to the expedition, I am directed to state that the name of the Officer selected for this purpose will be hereafter communicated, and, further, that steps will be taken to submit four Assistant Surgeons for promotion to the vacancies in the home establishment created by the withdrawal of the four Surgeons afore-mentioned from their present duties.

As Dr. Logan has not been favoured with any general instructions regarding the preparations to be made for this expedition, he is unable to state whether the British Medical Staff in Bombay, from which it is understood the expedition will be despatched, is likely to be able to meet the demands which may be made upon it; but, should there be any probability of a further call being made upon him, either for medical staff, equipment, or material, he will be glad to be favoured with the earliest information on the subject.

I have, &c.,
T. GRAHAM BALFOUR,
Deputy Inspector-General.

No. 339.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 13th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that 18 puggarees have been issued to the detachment Commissariat Staff Corps, and 72 puggarees to the detachment Military Train, which have proceeded to Egypt on special service in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition, and that repayment will be required for these articles from the India Government.

I am, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 340.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 13th, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, a letter from Mr. John Whitford, relative to a freezing machine invented by him, which he recommends for the use of the projected expedition to Abyssinia.

I am to add, that Mr. Whitford has been told that all matters connected with the expedition in question are now under the management of the India Office.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 341.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 13th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, with reference to my letter of the 10th instant, that the use of the Suez Canal on the present occasion for the transport of stores, &c., through Egypt, must depend on the instructions which the Secretary of State for War may think proper to issue to Colonel Clark Kennedy on the subject.

No. 279.
No. 286.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 342.

The Acting Director-General, Army Medical Department, to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir, Army Medical Department,
13th September 1867.

With reference to an application from the Admiralty on the subject of fitting up the Indian Transports to be used as hospital ships in the forthcoming Abyssinian expedition with medicines and instruments, &c., by this Department, I am instructed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request you will be good enough to state if it is your wish that these vessels should be equipped by this Department with all the necessary medical supplies, including such a reserve stock as may be considered to meet all their requirements for a period of six months.

I have, &c.,
T. GRAHAM BALFOUR,
for the Director-General.

No. 343.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, 13th September 1867.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to acquaint you that they propose, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for India, to send out three steam launches for the service of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 344.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
13th September 1867.

Sir,

No. 323.

With reference to your letter of the 12th instant, I beg to acquaint you, that it would be preferable if the two batteries therein alluded to, requiring conveyance to Bombay for the Abyssinian expedition, could be sent to Alexandria in the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer leaving Southampton on the 4th October, for shipment in the Indian troop ship waiting at Suez for the troops which will be leaving this country on the 9th October, as it would tax the railway in Egypt less than if they accompanied the regiment and its baggage; but, if the batteries cannot be got ready for shipment from Southampton on the 4th October, instructions will be given for the reception on board Her Majesty's Indian troop ship "Serapis" at Portsmouth, at which port they should arrive not later than the 7th October.

I request that I may be informed of the decision of the Secretary of State hereon.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDES.

No. 345.

The Assistant Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 13th September 1867.

I am directed by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, to request you will submit for the favourable consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council the accompanying copy of a letter from the Director, Royal Engineer Establishment, recommending that a party of one Non-commissioned Officer and six men of the Royal Engineers, trained photographers, be attached to the force under orders for Abyssinia, with the view of photographing sketches and plans made by Staff Officers of the expedition.

I have, &c.,
E. B. JOHNSON, Colonel,
for Military Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 345.

The Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment to the Deputy Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers.

Sir,

Chatham, 12th September 1867.

With reference to your instructions by which I am to prepare a party of men of the Royal Engineers for telegraph service in Abyssinia, I have to suggest for consideration whether a party of one Non-commissioned Officer and six men (trained photographers) could not be added to them for the purpose of photographing maps, plans, and sketches of country, which may be made by the Staff, and which it might be desirable to have printed and circulated among the Staff for the direction of columns.

There being no authentic engraved plans of the country, it seems most desirable that advantage should be taken of the facilities afforded by photography for multiplying the sketches of country made by Staff Officers.

I have, &c.,
J. L. A. SIMMONS, Colonel, R.E.,
Director.

No. 346.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 14, 1867.

No. 275.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Stuttgart, stating that he has been informed that a certain Levantine named Contarini, who is supposed to be residing at Khartoum, would be a useful guide to be attached to the expeditionary force about to proceed to Abyssinia; and I am to instruct you to make inquiries respecting Contarini, and in the event of your

considering such a course advisable, to secure his services at once for employment as a guide and interpreter, and to send for him to Cairo, and to detain him there, pending the receipt of instructions from General Sir R. Napier respecting his disposal.

I am to add that the Governor of Bombay has been apprized of the suggestion made by Her Majesty's Minister at Stuttgardt, and I am to instruct you to inform the Government of that Colony at once of the result of your inquiries in the matter.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 347.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, September 14, 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, forwarding copy of a telegram received from the Acting British Consul-General in Egypt, reporting the proceedings of the Viceroy of that country with reference to the proposed expedition to Abyssinia. No. 183.

2. In reply I am instructed to state, for the information of Lord Stanley, that a copy of your letter will be forwarded for the information of the Government of Bombay.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS.

No. 348.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, September 14th, 1867.

A twin screw tug boat and three barges are offered for sale at 18,000*l.*; each barge to carry 210 tons, drawing eight feet water; the whole to be sent to Aden, by way of the Suez canal, in 50 days. No. 315.

If found suitable upon inspection, would you like to have them?

No. 349.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, India Office, 14th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that inquiry has been made of the Government of Bombay, by telegraph, as to the proposal of Messrs. Brett & Co. to supply a small twin screw tug boat and three barges, and that, on the receipt of a reply, a further communication will be made to you. No. 315. No. 348.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 350.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, 14th September 1867.

In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, requesting to be informed what description of distilling apparatus is most likely to be serviceable for the use of the ships employed on the Abyssinian expedition, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Secretary of State for India in Council, that Normandy's condensers have hitherto been preferred by this Department, though more costly than those on Grant's principle. No. 296.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 351.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 14th September 1867.

No. 307.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, that orders will be given for the supply of a reserve of Snider ammunition for the use of the troops to be employed in Abyssinia, on receipt of demands from the India Store Department, and that every exertion will be made to get it ready for issue, as early as possible.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 352.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 14th, 1867.

I am informed by Sir Samuel Baker, that there is a breed of camels bred among the mountains, belonging to the Haddendowa tribe, near Souakin.

No. 353.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 14th, 1867.

Do you require any addition to the British Medical Staff at Bombay, in consequence of the Abyssinian arrangements?

No. 354.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 14th September 1867.

No. 338.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, forwarding copy of a letter received at the Horse Guards from the Army Medical Department, detailing the names of the Medical Officers who have been selected for service with the Abyssinian expedition, and suggesting the expediency of the Bombay Government being requested, by telegraph, to state what assistance they will require from this country in regard to medical staff, equipment, or material.

No. 353.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that the inquiry suggested has been this day made by telegraph to Bombay.

3. With regard to that portion of Dr. Balfour's letter which relates to the appointment in this country of a Sanitary Officer to the expedition, I am to observe that the organization of the force, and the selection of Officers on the staff thereof, rest with the authorities in Bombay, who will doubtless make all necessary arrangements in the Sanitary Department.

4. Sir Stafford Northcote, therefore, considers the appointment of a Sanitary Officer from this country unnecessary and inexpedient.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 355.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 14th September 1867.

No. 342.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Dr. Balfour's letter of the 13th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he is desirous that the hospital ships for the Abyssinian expedition should be equipped by

the Army Medical Department with all the necessary medical supplies, including the reserve stock necessary to meet all requirements for a period of six months.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 356.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 14th September 1867.

His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief having suggested that a supply of leggings of the Volunteer pattern should be issued to the Infantry soldiers ordered to Abyssinia, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to forward to you a copy of the Adjutant-General's letter, and to request that you will move the Secretary of State for India in Council to cause me to be informed whether, in reference to the nature of the service upon which the troops are about to be employed in that country, he concurs in the suggestion of His Royal Highness.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 356.

The Deputy Adjutant-General to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Horse Guards, 12th September 1867.

I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for War in conjunction with the Secretary of State for India, the advisability of providing a supply of leather leggings—which are not worn in India—for the troops about to be engaged in the projected expedition to Abyssinia, as in all probability they would prove a useful addition to their dress.

Should this suggestion be entertained, His Royal Highness would recommend that leggings of a similar pattern to those generally worn by the Volunteers be adopted, as, from their tightness round the ankle and their height in the leg, they are best adapted for keeping out mud and water, as well as for protecting the legs from scratches in going through cover.

I have, &c.,

C. R. EGERTON, Deputy Adjutant-General,
for Adjutant-General.

No. 357.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 14th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 10th and 12th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of the reduction of number and disposition of the corn sacks to be sent to Alexandria, mentioned therein. Nos. 297 and 325.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 358.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 14th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed letters, dated the 30th August and 12th instant, from Mr. W. J. Curtis, Civil Engineer, containing an offer to supply a system of tramways for the Abyssinian campaign.

Mr. Curtis has been informed that his letters have been transferred to the India Office.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 358.

Mr. CURTIS to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

13, Citizen Road, Holloway, August 30th, 1867.

At the period of the Indian Mutiny I had the honour of submitting to Lord Palmerston (at his request) a model of a tramway of my invention, specially adapted for military purposes, with which his Lordship was so satisfied, that he gave me a letter to Mr. Vernon Smith, head of the Board of Control, with the view of the plan being carried out in India, but the prompt suppression of the Mutiny rendered such purpose at that time unnecessary. The plan I now propose is an improvement on that I exhibited to Lord Palmerston.

The contemplated operations of the British in Africa against Abyssinia induce me to bring this subject, at the present time, before you, as by its means the operations of the troops and conveyance of artillery and stores, &c. will be facilitated with an economy and rapidity superior to that of the ordinary railway, animal power being only employed, the operations being simpler than those of the railway.

1. One line of rails suffices for two lines of traffic, no turnouts, switches, crossings required, the carriages pass and repass each other in the same or opposite direction without leaving the rail.

2. The carriages employed are the ordinary carriages, which are adapted both for the rail and common road by a very simple addition, liable to no accidents, and which the rudest soldier would understand in a minute. At any moment and any part of the line the carriages or artillery could leave the line and take it again.

3. The cost of the tramway will be comparatively very inconsiderable, and, when the operations of the army are completed, the tramway materials may be kept in reserve to be used again for any suitable purpose. It is very portable.

4. The materials could be readily supplied, and several miles a day laid down by the troops. In rough countries less labour would be required to form the line than for ordinary roads, no ballasting being required; in a soft and flat country, and in wet weather, its economy and service would be incalculable.

I shall be happy to furnish you with fuller information, or to illustrate the system, at Woolwich, or any other place, and, if desired, enter into a contract with the Government to lay down the tramway throughout the line of country traversed by the army, and with the port of debarkation.

I have, &c.,

W. J. CURTIS,
Civil Engineer.

Enclosure 2 in No. 358.

Mr. CURTIS to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

13, Citizen Road, 12th September 1867.

From further consideration given to the subject of my former communication "to supply a system of tramways for the Abyssinian campaign," I have concluded to recommend the adoption of a system which will permit the use of locomotives or that of beasts, so that either the one or the other may be employed at will, the carriages or trucks drawn by beasts leaving the rail to allow the engine and train to pass; the rails being formed out of the forest trees of the country or 3-inch planks and a light T rail sent out from this country.

A large and prolonged professional experience in Mexico, the West Indies, and the United States, convinces me that a locomotive line arranged as above proposed will be the most efficient, cheap, and prudent mode of transit which can be adopted. The locomotives will be made to ascend inclinations impracticable for beasts; the formation of the road will cost less than any other; fuel (wood) for the locomotives will be certain to be found, and the whole of the supplies for the army may be sent from the sea; if fresh water be procurable in no other way, the sea water can be distilled, and the salt converted to a commercial or useful purpose.

As drawings and plans of the adaptation of the locomotives and waggons, or for the tramway, will involve a greater expense of time and labour than any I am in a position to incur at my own cost, I can only supply them at the charge of the Government, but I shall be happy personally to explain my plans more fully.

In a political and economic sense, my plans offer many advantages; the cost of beasts will be, for the most part, superseded; the troops will be conveyed rapidly and without fatigue or danger through any unhealthy district; the heat of the climate (which, however, is not more than that of the West Indies), will favour the economical generation of the steam, neither the natives nor wild beasts will damage the track or interrupt the traffic, a most powerful effect will be produced on the natives by the very appearance of the iron horse, and, as respects other countries, the novel method of making war by steam, which in all future wars must be imitated, and can best be done by this country, will continue that national prestige which it is so important to preserve.

It need scarcely be necessary to observe, that the locomotive will be able to take its own park artillery planted in a proper truck,—will be a locomotive fortress.

I remain, &c.,

W. J. CURTIS,
Civil Engineer,

No. 359.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 113.

Sir,

India Office, 14th September 1867.

With reference to your telegram, dated the 3d instant, I forward, for your Excellency's information, copy of a report from Major Champain, upon the subject of a Telegraph Department for the Abyssinian force.

2. I have given my sanction to the proposed arrangements, and suggest that measures be at once taken by your Government for organizing the necessary Staff in Bombay, and for providing the stores and materials which it is proposed by Major Champain to provide in India.

3. I have given orders for the immediate collection of the several articles to be supplied in this country. They will be ready probably in about a month, and I request information by telegraph as to the place, whether Aden, Suez, or elsewhere, at which they should be deposited, pending instructions from the Officer commanding the force.

4. I have appointed Lieutenant St. John, R.E., to proceed in charge of the stores, and I doubt not the services of that Officer with the Department in the field will be found useful.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 360.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 114.

Sir,

India Office, 14th September 1867.

With a view to assist in the assignment, on arrival, to the proper Department of stores for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, orders have been given that they should be marked in the manner shown on the accompanying pieces of paper, the Commissariat Stores being marked in red paint, and the Military Stores in black.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 361.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 116.

Sir,

India Office, 14th September 1867.

I forward for your Excellency's information, copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, enclosing copy of a telegram from the Acting Consul-General in Egypt, reporting the proceedings of the Viceroy of that country with reference to the proposed expedition to Abyssinia.

2. Of His Highness's offer of the service of his ships of war, it may be hoped your Government will have no occasion to avail yourselves.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 362.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 117.

Sir,

India Office, 14th September 1867.

With reference to my telegram of the 7th September, I have to inform you that His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, submitted for Her Majesty's approval the following Brevet promotion:—

Brevet.

The under-mentioned Officers to have the temporary rank respectively assigned them while employed with the Abyssinian expeditionary force:—

Brevet Colonel, with the rank of Brigadier-General, Sir Charles William Dunbar Staveley, K.C.B., half pay Lieutenant-Colonel, late 44th Foot, to be Major-General.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Merewether, C.B., Bombay Staff Corps, to be Colonel.

No. 139.

2. On communicating with His Royal Highness on the subject of your recommendation that the local rank of Colonel in the East Indies be conferred on Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Merewether, C.B., in view to his employment in Abyssinia, His Royal Highness informed me, that it appeared to him that local rank in the East Indies would be inoperative for the purpose in question, and has accordingly submitted his name for the promotion above mentioned.

No. 192.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 363.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 14th September 1867.

With reference to previous communications relating to the expedition to Abyssinia, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, to submit for the consideration of Lord Stanley, whether it would not be desirable that Sir Robert Napier should be furnished with the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the course he should take, in the event of his demand upon King Theodore for the release of the captives proving ineffectual.

Sir Stafford Northcote presumes that, in so far as relates to the military operations, Sir Robert Napier will be left to act according to his own judgment, under the circumstances in which he may find himself placed. But, as regards other political contingencies that may arise, it appears advisable that, besides being vested with full powers to act on Her Majesty's behalf in such matters, he should receive instructions as to the general tenor of his conduct towards King Theodore, and the Chiefs and people of Abyssinia.

Sir Stafford Northcote apprehends that this will be peculiarly important, because the great scale of the preparations which are being made, taken in connexion with some of the unfortunate complications which have occurred in our relations with Abyssinia, may give rise to misconceptions as to the ultimate intentions of Her Majesty's Government. It may, therefore, be necessary that the object of the expedition and the present views of Her Majesty's Government should be distinctly explained to Sir Robert Napier.

In assenting to the proposals of Sir Robert Napier for the organization of a force upon so large a scale, and in taking immediate measures to provide the very considerable quantity of transport vessels, baggage animals, and other appliances which have been, or are about to be, despatched from this country to the East, Sir Stafford Northcote has been influenced by the conviction that these preparations afford the best hope of bringing the King Theodore to reason without an actual collision, and that they will also tend, should active hostilities be necessary, to shorten their duration, and to enable the British forces to leave the country, as soon as their object is accomplished. A smaller, or a less perfectly equipped force might be detained in Abyssinia, while re-inforcements and supplies were being provided, and its long detention might give rise to complications, which it is particularly desirable to avoid.

Sir S. Northcote would suggest, for the consideration of Lord Stanley, that Sir R. Napier should be instructed at the earliest opportunity to proclaim, that the sole object of the expedition is to vindicate the dignity of the British Government, by procuring the release of Mr. Rassam and his suite, and of Consul Cameron, from the captivity in which they have for a long period been most unjustifiably held, and also the free egress from Abyssinia of all other Europeans who may be detained by King Theodore in his dominions against their will, together with satisfaction for the insult offered to the British nation in the persons of Her Majesty's Consul and of the officers charged with the delivery of a letter from Her Majesty to the King of Abyssinia. It should be made generally known, that Her Majesty's Government would greatly deprecate any necessity for a British force remaining in Abyssinia longer than may be absolutely requisite for the accomplishment of those objects.

The proclamation should further specify, that no injury is intended to the people of Abyssinia, who may remain quietly in their homes; that the persons and properties of all inhabitants of the country who should furnish supplies or carriage to the British army will be protected, and that none will be molested excepting such as may appear in arms, or endeavour in any way to impede the progress of the army by the removal of cattle and means of subsistence, or afford information, aid, or support to a hostile force.

It might be well to add, that the King will be held personally responsible for any further injury to the captives. It would probably be undesirable to express any apprehension that he might himself do them an injury, but it would be right that Sir R. Napier should have instructions as to the language he should employ, and the measures he should take, in the event of the captives being removed further into the interior of the country, or of actual violence being used towards them.

Sir S. Northcote is of opinion that a distinct expression of the views of Her Majesty's Government upon these and similar points, while it need not limit the discretion of Sir R. Napier in the prosecution of the campaign, would be of essential service to him from the first, and might tend to prevent embarrassment hereafter.

I am, &c.,
J. C. MELVILL.

No. 364.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 14th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 13th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the order for the supply of 5,000 service pattern pack-saddles from Woolwich for the Abyssinian expedition has been cancelled. No. 331.

I am to request that you will inform Sir Stafford Northcote that, in order to facilitate the purchase by the India Store Department of the "Otago" pattern pack-saddles from the trade, patterns are being prepared at Woolwich which will be issued on the requisition of the India Government; and I am to suggest that an officer from the India Store Department may attend at Woolwich, when every information which can facilitate the purchase of the pack-saddles will be at once afforded.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 365.

The Consul at Alicante to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received September 16.)

My Lord,

Alicante, September 10, 1867.

With reference to my Despatch of the 4th instant, I beg to inform your Lordship that, on the 8th, Captain Whinyate, accompanied by Assistant Commissary-General Cumming and a veterinary officer arrived here, and delivered to me your Lordship's despatch marked Separate of the 29th ultimo, in which you state that it is the wish of the Secretary of State for War that I should pay any expenses which he may be authorized to incur in the purchase of mules; that I should reimburse myself by drawing on Her Majesty's Paymaster-General, payable on account of the War Office; and that in each case I should require from the officer an order for the payment to be made, for which he would be responsible.

On receiving this despatch I handed it for perusal to Captain Whinyate and Mr. Cumming, expressing my readiness to act on these instructions, when the latter observed that he thought there must be some mistake, as his instructions were to draw for any amounts required; to which I only observed that perhaps his instructions might be anterior to those I had received.

Since that moment I have accompanied the officers to select and hire stabling, and make all other preparations for the arrival of mules expected here, when to-day Mr. Commissary Cumming has called on me to request that I would indorse a bill drawn by him for 200*l.*, as he had applied to several mercantile houses who, without my signature, would not negotiate his bills.

I answered that I could not do so without disobedience of the wish of the Secretary of State for War, conveyed to me by your Lordship, but that I was ready to afford him personally any money he might require for preliminary expenses, stating that I would report the circumstances to your Lordship, which I now take the liberty of doing.

I have, &c.,
BENJ. BARRIE.

No. 366.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 16, 1867.

In accordance with the request made in your letter of the 27th ultimo, Lord Stanley sent an instruction to Her Majesty's Consul at Alicante, of which a copy is herewith enclosed, relative to the course to be pursued in regard to providing the officers sent from England to purchase mules with the necessary funds for that purpose.

I am now to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from Colonel Barrie, by which you will see that Captain Whinyate, the officer sent to Alicante, has raised a question as to the correctness of the instruction given to the Consul; and I am to request that you will move Secretary Sir John Pakington to inform Lord Stanley what answer is to be given to Colonel Barrie in this matter.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 367.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 16th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that instructions may be given to the Officer commanding the Royal Engineers at Chatham, to test one of Norton's Patent American Tube Wells, with a view to their probable utility in Abyssinia, and to report the result for Sir Stafford Northcote's information.

2. Mr. Norton has been directed to forward the well to Chatham, together with the necessary driving apparatus, which I am desired to request may be returned to Mr. Norton.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 368.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 16th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that instructions have been given to the Director-General of Stores of this Office to obtain the supply of pack-saddles on the Otago pattern, in accordance with the suggestion of the Ordnance Select Committee.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 369.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 16th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of the issue of 18 puggarees to the detachment of the Commissariat Staff Corps, and 72 to that of the Military Train, which have proceeded to Egypt in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 370.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 16th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, in original, a letter addressed by Mr. John Whitford to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with its enclosures, respecting a freezing machine invented by him, which he recommends for the use of the force to be employed in Abyssinia; and I am desired to request that Sir Stafford Northcote may be favoured with the opinion of the Army Medical Department on the suggestion.

2. It is requested that the papers may be returned to this Office.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 371.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 16th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that a copy No. 295. of the papers accompanying it will be forwarded for the information of the Government of Bombay.

2. With regard to the proposal of the Acting British Consul-General at Alexandria to accompany the projected expedition into Abyssinia, I am desired to state that Sir Stafford Northcote is disposed to agree with Lord Stanley that the interests of the public service would be better consulted by his remaining at his post.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 372.

The Assistant Hydrographer of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Hydrographic Department, Admiralty,
16th September 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 11th instant, addressed to the Secretary of the No. 316. Admiralty, applying for Admiralty charts of the Red Sea, &c., I beg to acquaint you that 50 copies of each of the charts are forwarded to you herewith.

I have, &c.,

FREDK. JNO. EVANS,
for Hydrographer.

No. 373.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir, India Office, 16th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge to receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he No. 343. approves of the proposal to send out three steam launches, for the service of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 374.

Telegram from the Governor-General of India to the Secretary of State for India,
September 16th, 1867.

After consultation with the Director-General of Telegraphs, we request that you will send at once, overland, to the Political Agent at Aden, for Abyssinia, 10,000 insulators for flying lines, made only of ebonite and iron; packages to weigh 80 pounds each.

No. 375.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 16th, 1867.

A suggestion has been received from Major Hastings Fraser, that he should bring a corps, say five hundred, of the Nizam's Hubshees. Do you recommend the proposal being accepted?

Have you at Bombay any scientific men to accompany the expedition, or shall we send some out?

See No. 95. Dr. Krapf will go with the force.

No. 376.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 119.

Sir, India Office, 16th September 1867.

No. 193. In continuation of my Despatch dated the 3d instant, No. 107, I proceed to communicate to you the further measures which have been adopted in this country with regard to the expedition to Abyssinia.

No. 178. 2. With reference to the information conveyed to you in the 5th paragraph of that Despatch, regarding the supply of coal, I have to acquaint you that, in addition to the 20,000 tons therein mentioned, arrangements have been made with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the supply of 10,000 tons for the Government service at Bombay.

Enclosure in No. 242. 3. A list of the iron screw transports hired by the Admiralty is enclosed for your information. The first of these sailed from Liverpool on the 11th of this month.

See No. 289. 4. A copy of the instructions given to Captain Tryon, with regard to the Transport Service, is also transmitted.

Enclosure in No. 302. 5. Arrangements have been made, as you were informed in my previous Despatch, for preventing any cause of interference with the proper object of the new India troop ships, you will take care that the regular service of these vessels is not interrupted. Should you find it necessary to employ on this occasion any of the troops in course of relief, you will not fail to give me immediate information as to the regiments which you propose thus to divert from their return home.

6. With reference to the 9th paragraph of my Despatch of the 3d of September, I forward a further list of the stores which are under provision. It will be observed that this list includes the whole of the articles mentioned in the former one, with additional information on certain points. The lists forwarded to you hereafter will on each occasion recapitulate the whole of the stores supplied, with such further information in each case as may have been obtained up to the latest date.

No. 331. 7. I stated in the 11th paragraph of my previous Despatch, that I had requested the Secretary of State for War to supply 5,000 pack-saddles for the mules, from the Government Arsenal. Subsequently, however, those saddles were condemned by the Ordnance Select Committee, and it has been determined to adopt the Otago pattern, which has been tried with great success in New Zealand. Orders have accordingly been given for the immediate provision of 5,000 saddles of this pattern, and they will be forwarded overland as soon as they are received from the makers. I am desirous, therefore, of being informed by telegraph to what place you wish them to be transmitted.

No. 205. 8. In the 12th paragraph of my Despatch, No. 107, it was stated that 8,000 rounds of blank ammunition were to be despatched in the transport steamers to Bombay. This figure was a clerical error, the number forwarded being 20,800 rounds.

No. 359. 9. In consequence of your telegram of the 4th instant, intimating your wish to receive both the mountain batteries referred to in the 13th paragraph of my previous Despatch, I have given instructions for the second battery to be forwarded as soon as it is ready. Lieutenants Nolan and Chapman, of the Royal Artillery, have been selected by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, for service with these batteries in Abyssinia.

10. In my Despatch of the 14th instant, No. 113, I have apprised you of the measures in progress with reference to the telegraph system to be adopted for the use of the expedition. A further communication will be made to you with regard to the signallers, and the Non-commissioned Officers and men of the Royal Engineers who are to work the flying lines of telegraph.

11. I forward, for your information, copies of five letters from the Foreign Office, dated the 3d, 5th, 10th, 11th, and 13th instant, with their enclosures, showing the steps which have been taken to obtain facilities for the expedition from the Ottoman Porte and the Viceroy of Egypt, and the present condition of the projected line of telegraph to Souakin. With regard to the proposal of the Acting Consul-General in Egypt, to accompany the force into Abyssinia, I have informed Lord Stanley that I am disposed to concur in his view, that the public interests will be better promoted by Mr. Reade's remaining at his post. Nos. 182, 227, 295, 304, and 329.

12. A suggestion has been made by the Director of the Topographical Department of the War Office, with regard to the despatch of a small topographical staff to accompany the expedition and make maps of the country. I forward a copy of the letter from Sir Edward Lugard, for your information; and I have informed the Secretary of State for War that I have no doubt you have provided for this, as well as the other branches of the expedition. No. 196. No. 324.

13. On the receipt of your telegram dated the 6th instant, asking for certain charts of the Red Sea, &c., I made a requisition to the Admiralty for them, and they are forwarded to you by the present mail. No. 240. No. 316.

14. I have received from the Foreign Office a copy of a letter, of which an extract is enclosed, from Mr. Cobbold, respecting a man named Contarini, whose services as a guide may be useful to the force; and I have requested that the Consul-General in Egypt may be desired to make inquiry respecting him, and, if desirable, to engage and detain him at Cairo, pending the receipt of instructions from Sir Robert Napier regarding his disposal. Enclosure in No. 276. No. 334.

15. I also forward a copy of a letter from a person named Bonhomme, who offers himself as interpreter to the force. Other applications for similar employment have been received, and I wish to be informed whether you require the services of any persons from this country as interpreters or guides.

16. On receiving your telegram of the 7th instant, I directed Veterinary Surgeon Lamb and Conductors Henderson and Lee to return to their duty at Bombay forthwith. Mr. Lee proceeds by the present mail *via* Marseilles, and Mr. Lamb and Mr. Henderson by the following mail *via* Marseilles and Southampton respectively. They have all been provided with Government passages. Lieutenant-Colonel A. Lucas, Assistant Commissary-General at Bombay, returned to his duty by the Marseilles mail of the 19th of August, in accordance with the wish expressed in your telegram of the 9th ultimo. No. 245. No. 21.

17. Letters have been received from the following gentlemen, containing various suggestions regarding the expedition. Copies are forwarded for your information :—

Colonel M'Murdo to Mr. Romaine, with general suggestions;

Captain Cruttenden, I.N., ditto;

Major Leveson, proposing to raise a native auxiliary force;

Mr. Banister as to a Dromedary Corps, and other matters; and,

A printed pamphlet from Dr. Beke, on the commerce and politics of Abyssinia.

18. I also transmit copies of letters from the under-mentioned gentlemen respecting inventions which, in their opinion, may be of use to the expeditionary force. In the event of your desiring to have any of the articles supplied, you will communicate your wishes to me by telegraph :—

Messrs. Gray, Dawes, and Co., respecting a steam-bridge or ferry;

Vice-Admiral Coffin, as to a camp stove and cooking apparatus;

Captain Bamber, R.N., respecting the plan of signalling by means of the magnesium light;

Mr. Rae, regarding an army filtering water-cart;

Messrs. Tylor and Sons, and Dr. Normandy, respecting distilling apparatus; and,

Mr. Calvert, as to the use of carbolic acid as a disinfectant.

19. With reference to the means of filtering the water, it has been suggested to me that a simple method is, to provide each soldier with a small piece of alum, to carry in his pocket, in order that, by attaching it to a piece of string and allowing it to be passed to and fro in the water, a sediment may be formed, and the water above remain pure. The suggestion appears to be worth consideration, although it may probably be practised in India, and, if so, will be well known to you.

I have, &c.;

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

See (for a similar letter) Enclosure in No. 265.

Enclosure 1 in No. 373.

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition.

India Office, 17th September 1867.

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.	
Blue serge banyans	4,000	} Liverpool	Bombay	"England"	1867. 12th September.		
Flannel shirts	4,000						
Neck comforters	4,000						
Jersey shirts	4,000						
Worsted stockings	4,000	} "	"	"Queen"	14th September.		
Nightcaps	4,000						
Gloves	4,000						
Great coats	500						
Blankets	12,000	} "	"	"England"	12th September.		
Boots	12,000						
Spare boot laces	12,000						
Salt beef	70,000						
" pork	35,100	} London	Massowah or Aden.	{ "Mauritius." "City of Manchester"	16th or 17th Sept.	100 lbs. in excess of demand.	
Preserved potatoes	15,000						
Compressed vegetables	15,000						
Desiccated milk	50						
Essence of beef	2,400	{ 63, Liverpool 11½, " 150, London	Bombay	Tons, 63, "England" 11½, "Queen" 150, "Golden Fleece," probably.	12th September. 14th September.	Only 100 shown in last return, by clerical error.	
Compressed forage	500						
Waterproof sheets	30,000						
Perkins's portable ovens	2						
Portable cooking ranges	12	{ 12,000 Liverpool 7,000, " 10,833, London	Bombay	{ 1. "Queen" 1. "England"	14th September. 12th September.	These will not be ready till early in October.	
Waterproof covers	2,100						
Bell tents	1,000						
Hospital tents	50						
For Yeast	3,600	} Liverpool	Bombay	"England" "Mauritius."	14th September.	{ Will be shipped shortly to Mas- sowah or Aden.	
" malt	500						
" hops	500						
Filters, portable	5,000						
		} London	Massowah or Aden	"Queen"	-		-

RETURN OF STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition—continued.

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
Carts, Maltese	400	London	Massowah or Aden	{ 100, "Golden Fleece." 100, "Mauritius." 100, "Queen of South." "Golden Fleece."	-	Those originally supplied from Woolwich having been withdrawn, 5,000 now ordered, of the "Otago" pattern, will not be ready until the end of October, and will be sent out <i>via</i> Egypt.
Grease for ditto	2,800	"	"	-	-	
Pack-saddles	5,000	-	-	-	-	
Harness	1,800	"	"	{ 204, "Golden Fleece." 198, "Mauritius." 300, "Queen of South." 102, "Golden Fleece." 99, "Mauritius." 150, "Queen of South." 34, "Golden Fleece." 33, "Mauritius." 50, "Queen of South."	-	
Traces, short	900	"	"	{ 2,000, "Queen" 2,114, "England" "England" "Queen" 19, "England" 21, "Queen" 1,250,000, "Queen" 1,250,000, "England"	14th September 12th September	} 114 in excess of demand, for Serjeants.
Whips	400	"	"	-	"	
Rifles, Snider, Infantry	4,000	Liverpool	Bombay	{ 10,400, "Queen" 10,400, "England" "Queen" 6, "Queen" 6, "England"	14th September. 12th September 14th September	} Component parts, &c., for repair of Snider arms.
Carbines, Snider, Cavalry	200	"	"	-	-	
" " Artillery	800	"	"	-	-	} For repair, &c., of Snider arms.
Small arms, materials, &c., for repair of	40	"	"	-	-	
Cartridges, Snider, ball, service	2,500,000	"	"	-	12th September.	{ Will probably be ready early in October, and be sent by Her Majesty's ship "Serapis," <i>via</i> Alexandria.
" " " reserve.						
" " blank	20,800	"	"	-	14th September.	
Forges, Armourer	6	"	"	-	14th September	
Tools, " " sets	12	"	"	-	"	
Steel mountain batteries	2	"	"	-	12th September.	
Ammunition for ditto	12,000	"	"	-	14th September	
Rockets, Hale's, 6-pounder	300	"	"	-	"	
For use with Rockets:—						
Troughs	12	"	"	-	12th September.	
Panniers	12	"	"	-	-	
Pack-saddles, service pattern	12	"	"	-	-	
Tubes, friction, copper	360	"	"	-	-	
Lanyard's friction tubes	24	"	"	-	-	

N.B.—The ships "Mauritius," "Golden Fleece," "Queen of South," are not expected to leave England until, or after, the 21st instant,

GERALD C. TALBOT,
Director-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 376.

M. BONHOMME to the Deputy Quartermaster-General, Horse Guards.

Monsieur le Colonel,

41 & 42, High Holborn, le 11 Septembre 1867.

Le soussigné Rs. Bonhomme a l'honneur de vous exposer,—

Il est recommandé au Major-Général Sir Henry Storks, qu'il le connaît déjà.

Il a heureusement rempli une difficile mission près du Khan de Boukhara en 1864.

Il a servi l'armée de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, dans le Turkish contingent à Bouyoukdère, et à Varna en 1855 et 1856.

Il parle les langues suivantes, Français, Anglais, Italien, Espagnol, Grec, Russe, Turc, Arabe, et Tartare et Persan.

Il connaît le Soudan, et Massawaha, et par ses nombreux voyages il est habitué à tous les climats.

Il offre ses services, et ses connaissances bien acquises pour les langues et les lieux, pour suivre l'expédition d'Abyssinie, et à ce sujet il a l'honneur, Monsieur le Colonel, de vous prier de vouloir le recevoir un moment.

Avec profond respect, &c.,

ROMULUS BONHOMME.

Enclosure 3 in No. 376.

Extract of a Letter from Colonel MacMURDO to Mr. ROMAINE.

It is difficult, and I should say almost useless, in me to hazard an opinion of the number you should have in line if the Abyssinians stand a general action. The probability is that fighting would be their last resource,—that they would seek for advantage rather in their knowledge of the intricate passes of their country, and we should have to play a game of chess—stopping up this gap, and marching through that one, and checkmating by a third, and, as we advance, closing and guarding outlets upon our line of communications, where marauding parties might cut in upon our convoys. This system is unavoidable in mountain warfare, and it results in a violation of the principles of strategy,—that of scattering and dribbling away your force in detachments—some of which are pretty certain to be surprised and overpowered, if the enemy is worth his salt.

I should say, to reckon upon 2,000 men in line at any one point, you must have 6,000 men in the field, *and certainly 6,000 more at Aden*—not a man less—for no one can tell how soon they may be wanted.

No doubt the composition of this (field) force will be carefully considered.

I think there ought to be a European regiment of Infantry, a very complete mountain train, on mules, not camels—camels *give in* awfully, and are useless in slippery ground; though invaluable in other respects, they are bad Artillery cattle.

A certain number of small mortars should be sent up for the armament of posts. Mountain posts rarely have a clear range, and it would be a great advantage to have the means of sending a shell on to a height, or to drop it into a ravine, when it is known that the enemy are there.

It is curious how indefatigable all mountaineers are in harassing a line of communication, and in watching to pounce upon convoys, and yet how easy it is to frustrate them by being alive to their tricks—and I know of nothing more alive than a shell sometimes,—besides, it saves marching and climbing, and so men and money, &c.

Another tool could be got ready in a short time,—I mean a riding-camel corps,—invaluable, indeed indispensable, in such a country, and considering the nature and objects of the expedition.

Napoleon organized one lower down (or intended to do so had he remained in Egypt), and Sir Charles when in Scinde, created the most perfect thing of the kind a soldier ever beheld (100 miles a day was done by it without distress).

Lord Dalhousie, however, abolished the corps just in time to let Tantia Topee make us feel the want of it.

I am not sure, however, whether the dromedary of Egypt carries two men or only one; I think only one. The Arab sits with his leg hooked upon a high pommel. There must be some good reason for this, therefore I would not attempt to alter it to the Indian fashion. In the first place you would have to send special saddles from India, with saddle-makers and all the rest of it.

A camel carrying *one* would, I reckon, be only a quarter less the value of the camel that carries *two* men. In the first place, the driver in India, though armed and able to protect his camel, is not a soldier; and next, I am of opinion that a soldier (taught in a short time to ride and guide his own camel) ought to be able to guard three other camels of men out skirmishing. That would allow of 75 men out of every 100 to fight, while 25 remained with the camels. Thus, there would be one half the mouths to fill, and the fighting would be done too.

For general charge and grazing purposes, I would be disposed to have every tenth man an Egyptian Arab, or have 10 per cent. of such men supernumerary to the establishment of fighting men, who should be either Belooches or Sikhs, or even Europeans.

Now, with regard to administration, I am clear that *all* the warlike stores should be sent with the troops from India, and that none should for any reason be sent from this country. All ordnance stores (which, in India, include camp equipage) should be sent from thence, and so reduce the chances of mistakes.

It would not do to have such an excuse offered, that they did not know *here* that some Indian contingent or other was armed with some peculiar musket, or that the projectiles would not fit; therefore all warlike stores should come from one source, including camp equipage and artillery harness, with their Indian establishments for repairs; reserves at Aden.

But the supplies of transports (and possibly food) should come from Egypt, which is our natural base. Of course I am ignorant of what, if any, engagements we have entered into with the Viceroy; I only say what in my opinion ought to be.

Of course I am ignorant also of the route the expedition will operate by, and I have only got one of the children's maps (50 geographical miles to the inch) to help me.

There appear to me to be three routes—judging from the map—and for two out of the three the active support of the Viceroy would be needed.

1. There is a town (without a name on my bit of a map) outside and below the Straits. But I don't like the route offered apparently by the "Hawash" river; short routes into a mountainous district are generally the worst, and, besides, I think that ships would be exposed to the north-east monsoon lying there, and these would constitute our base.
2. Massowa appears to be sheltered by islands. From this post you might operate either by the Takkasie or by the route from Kartoum, up the "Bahr-el-Azrak."

I confess that I should prefer the last, though it is the longest, but in either case I should look to Egypt for transport and supplies of grain, forage, and cattle.

You mention operating across desert. I don't expect we shall have much of that (except at first from Massowa); in mountain warfare you follow up rivers very much. However, with well organized camel transport, with water bags in plenty, and your mountain train of artillery, and your camel corps, any expedition may be undertaken from any point. I see no difficulties that cannot be surmounted.

Enclosure 4 in No. 376.

Memorandum by Captain CRUTTENDEN, I.N.

4th September 1867.

From the middle of November to the end of March, beef and mutton of excellent quality are procurable along the whole extent of the Somali Coast, from Cape Guardafui to Berbera.

From my own experience I consider Kurrum the best place at which to purchase sheep, as I have always found them arrive there from the interior in better condition than those brought down to Berbera, another port to the westward.

The anchorage at Kurrum is, however, not nearly so good as that at Berbera, where there is an excellent and well sheltered harbour; and it would certainly be preferable to embark bullocks at the latter place.

The supply of beef during the above months is moderate, but of mutton *without limit*, the meat being of excellent quality, and the price moderate, say 1½ dollars or seven shillings for a sheep weighing about 40 pounds.

An agent should be stationed at Kurrum and at Berbera, with orders to arrange for a given number of sheep to be held in readiness inland at some convenient distance, and to be brought down to the coast when required, not before, as there is but scanty pasturage near the shore. There would be no difficulty in making an arrangement of this nature with the Somali tribes. The sheep should be paid for on delivery at the seashore, and not on any account previously, as the natives are not remarkable for honesty.

Beef, mutton, ghee or clarified butter, and firewood are the only supplies procurable on the Somali coast. Poultry, vegetables, and fruit are unknown.

Zeyla and Tajoura, the remaining ports to the westward of Berbera, are not worthy of notice, the supplies from the former being scanty and inferior, and from the latter *nil*, whilst the anchorage at both places is difficult and bad.

The Dunkalis, the tribe residing at Tajoura, are the most treacherous savages I ever met with.

From Massowah down to Berbera, along the African coast, there is no place where meat could be procured in any quantity (Edd and Amphilla are the only places).

Perim Island, in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandel, has an excellent harbour, but the only fresh water is that furnished by a distilling apparatus, and sufficient only for the military detachment stationed there; but the island might prove a convenient place for a dépôt, unless Dissee Island, at the mouth of Annesley Bay, and a few miles to the south-east of Massowah, appear preferable.

Mokha is fast falling to decay. A small supply of vegetables and limes in abundance are procurable there, as also some poultry.

Hodeida, a flourishing seaport town on the Arabian coast, about south-south-east from Massowah, having a Turkish Governor and garrison, will afford useful and valuable supplies for the expedition, in the shape of bullocks, poultry, vegetables, and fruit (chiefly limes); but few sheep are procurable.

An active and intelligent agent at this port would be able to despatch a daily supply of fresh provisions to Massowah by steamer. The prospect of so good a market would attract traders from inland, as also from the most northern ports of Lohaia and Ghesau, and ensure the supply being equal to the demand. I look upon Hodeida as a place of great importance with reference to the requirements of the field force at Massowah, more so than Lohaia, which, although nearer, is not much in the habit of intercourse with Europeans, and whose inhabitants are fanatical and rude.

The camels of Hodeida are inferior to those of Egypt and Juddah. Excellent water-skins are manufactured at Hodeida.

The camels of Tajoura, Zeyla, and the Somali coast generally are very inferior, and should not be employed.

Independently of supplies conveyed to Massowah by the store ships and despatch vessels, there will doubtless be a considerable trade carried on by Native craft, from the Dhalak group of islands adjacent to that port, and from the villages on the Abyssinian coast, north and south. When once it is known that it is a British force, the natives will bring in their goods for sale without fear.

A despatch boat might be stationed at Abou Eyle Island, at the north end of Gibel Zooghur, to deliver and receive letters from the passing mail steamers, all of which must come within two miles of the island. This would be preferable to stopping in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb.

It would be as well to take immediate steps for the supply of sheep from the Somali coast, and for other articles at Hodeida, by the appointment of agents to those stations. The tribes on the African coast commence moving their flocks nearer the sea in October.

C. J. CRUTTENDEN.

Berbera is about 480 miles from Massowah.

Hodeida " 210 " "

Enclosure 5 in No. 376.

Major LEVESON to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

3, Victoria Square, Belgravia, 2d September 1867.

I have the honour to offer my services for employment in Abyssinia.

The employment I should most wish to obtain would be that of Government Agent or Commissioner amongst the tribes hostile to King Theodorus, and my chief object would be to raise and command an auxiliary force from amongst the natives, who, knowing the country, and being accustomed to the climate, would spare the regular troops much harassing fatigue and be able to do good service.

I am well accustomed to this kind of work, having raised an irregular corps from amongst the Haussa tribes which did good service at Lagos against vastly superior numbers of insurgent natives. (*Vide* Governor Freeman's Report.)

I also commanded Ottoman troops during the Russian war, and have seen much active service and predatory warfare in different parts of the world, in India, on the Danube, in the Crimea, Asia Minor, Italy in 1859-60, Denmark, the Southern States of America, on the West Coast of Africa, and lately in Bohemia.

I am well acquainted with every detail of my profession, including military reconnoitring, and have a fair knowledge of several Oriental, as well as all the Continental languages.

I am accustomed to the climate and people of Africa, having made seven expeditions to different parts of that Continent, and I was one of the first to volunteer my services for the purpose of obtaining the relief of the captives.

My past services have on different occasions been brought before the War Office, by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, Sir Henry Storks, Sir William Codrington, and General Windham, and I beg to enclose copies of some of the testimonials I have received from Generals under whom I have served.

My last appointment was that of Colonial Secretary of Lagos on the West Coast of Africa, from which place I returned disabled, having received a gun-shot wound in the head in a sharp affair with the natives.

I had the pleasure of sending you copies of two of my works, which show that I am not afraid of hard work, and, should I be fortunate enough to obtain the appointment I ask, no efforts shall be wanting on my part to fulfil its duties with zeal and efficiency.

I have, &c.,

H. A. LEVESON, Major,
late Colonial Secretary of Lagos,
West Africa.

Enclosure 6 in No. 376.

Major LEVESON to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

3, Victoria Square, Belgravia, 4th September 1867.

On the 2d instant I had the honour to bring to your notice the desirability of raising a native auxiliary force from amongst the tribes hostile to King Theodorus.

I now purpose entering into further particulars as to the practicability of the scheme, the best equipment, and the varied uses that such a corps could be put to.

In the first instance, the strength might be as follows:—

Europeans.						Natives.		
Commissioner commanding.	Assistant Commissioners commanding Wings.	Staff Officer.	Assistant Surgeon.	Non-commissioned.	Hospital Attendants.	Non-commissioned.	Privates.	Drummers.
1	2	1	1	13	2	50	1,200	24

Arms.—The best arms for an irregular corps of this description would be old regulation cavalry or artillery carbines (either smooth-bore or rifled), of which there are some thousands in store.

No belts or pouches are required, but a waterproof haversack serves for carrying ammunition.

Uniform.—None required save a red woollen cap as a distinguishing badge. A pair of blue cotton loose short drawers, reaching to the knee, and fastening round the waist with a cord, and a blanket (dark grey for the private, and red for the non-commissioned,) about 6½ feet long by 4½ wide, to roll up and fasten with straps. This with a tin water canteen is all the kit required.

The other equipment would be as follows:—

Revolvers for Europeans.	Swords for Europeans.	Carbines.	Machetes.	Haversacks.	Red Blankets.	Grey Blankets.	Tin Water Canteen.	Short Drawers, Caps.	Axes.	Native Spades.	Large Saws.	Small Saws.	Pickaxes.	Sailors' Knives.	Pocket Filters.	Drums (native).
50	15	1,250	1,500	1,275	50	1,275	1,275	1,275	50	200	24	24	12	1,275	25	—

Pay.—I propose that privates receive the equivalent of one shilling per diem and one seer of rice; to find themselves in everything else. The non-commissioned to get double.

Guides.—From the most intelligent men who know the country I would form a company of guides or scouts, for secret service purposes, whilst the rest would be employed in convoy duty, foraging, cutting roads, digging wells, finding and guarding water, and in maintaining communications in the low unhealthy country, where fever would decimate regular troops not accustomed to the climate.

In the beds of rivers water may generally be found in considerable quantities by digging, and I propose that these men should act as pioneers before the advance of the troops. They would render great service if they only manage to supply the force with good water.

Should my project be entertained, I would start for Abyssinia with as little delay as possible, and by the time the Bombay division landed I would have the nucleus of an efficient corps raised, and also have picked up much valuable information about the country, its capabilities for furnishing supplies and forage, as well as some estimate of the forces of King Theodoros.

I should like to select my own Officers, as I could work better with men whose capabilities I know than with strangers.

I would also, as an old African traveller, beg to observe, that the surest preventative against fever in a malarious country is to drink only water that has been *boiled*. I am sure that if the Europeans would only take this precaution, the whole force would arrive on the table lands without a single case; otherwise they will be decimated.

In spite of all that has been written in the papers concerning the Guinea worm, I do not anticipate any trouble from these disagreeable visitors. They very rarely annoy Europeans.

I beg to enclose photographs of a very serviceable arm against undisciplined troops, which I have used with great effect. One man can take it wherever a mule can go, and it is a capital arm at long ranges.

Messrs. Whitworth are constructing breech-loading guns, carrying iron shot, that are even better than this of mine, and there is one great advantage over any yet adopted by Government, viz., the ammunition is much lighter, a man being able to carry two dozen rounds of case shot or six dozen of the ordinary shot.

I would much like to have four Whitworth one-pounder breech-loading guns for this corps; it would inspire the natives with confidence.

I have, &c.,

H. A. LEVESON, Major,
late Colonial Secretary of Lagos,
West Africa.

Enclosure 7 in No. 376.

Messrs. GRAY, DAWES, & Co., to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

13, Austin Friars, 5th September 1867.

We have the honour to submit, for your consideration, a drawing of a steam bridge or ferry which the maker desires us to place before you, in the hope that you may see the great advantage it would be in landing troops, horses, and stores at the point that may be decided upon for disembarking the Abyssinian expedition.

This bridge or transport boat may be shipped in four pieces and easily put together; all that is then required is to attach one of the ship's ropes to the shore, and with the steam power it is rapidly

propelled; the platform at either end, lowered by the steam crane to the shore, forms an admirable roadway for cattle, horses, &c. to walk ashore, and would save much time, trouble, and probably loss.

A roof running from end to end forms a good protection from the sun or rain.

The entire cost of the bridge is only 2,500*l.*, and the simplicity of construction is one of its chief recommendations; one of these bridges has been working on the Clyde for some time past, and is a complete success.

We are daily expecting a model, which we shall be happy to present in person, and give further information if required.

We have, &c.,
GRAY, DAWES, & Co.

P. S.—Since writing the above, we have received another letter from the maker on the subject, with a rough sketch of the boat hanging in four pieces at davits, which we beg to attach to this letter.

Enclosure 8 in No. 376.

Vice-Admiral COFFIN to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Springfield, Caversham, September 1st, 1867.

I see there is an expedition of troops to be sent to Abyssinia, where there will be much sickness, of necessity. I, therefore, take the liberty of enclosing the plan of a stove I invented during the Crimean war, which the Admiralty and the Honourable Board of Ordnance patronized; the former had 12 for the seamen's brigade, and the latter had about 80 for the sick huts and ambulance carts. Their weight can be easily reduced, as well as a few of the articles if not required. They are particularly adapted for the use of the sick, and very portable (when reduced to forty pounds weight) by two men, having handles at each side, and the iron on the top goes through the handles; wood, or camels' dung when in the desert, will cook anything in a short time. Sir Joseph Paxton had 80 for the road navvies in the Crimea, but they were larger, had only a boiler, frying pan, and tea kettle, but of the same weight, also a coffee grinder. Mr. Williams will gladly wait upon you to explain anything you may wish.

In hopes they may be useful, I have taken the liberty of forwarding you the enclosed.

I have, &c.,
H. E. COFFIN, Vice-Admiral.

Enclosure 9 in No. 376.

Captain BAMBER, R.N., to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Clarence House, Jersey, September 4th, 1867.

Having seen by the papers that the Government have decided on sending an expedition to Abyssinia, consisting of 10,000 men, I beg to draw your attention to an invention of mine, which I think would be found of great service in the field, either in making signals or for siege operations. It is a small instrument for burning magnesium tape with a continuous light; the tape is brought forward by clockwork, at such speed as is required, into the combustion chamber, which is provided with reflectors, and in front of which red or green glass is shown to give any necessary signal, or a powerful white light. This apparatus is very light, and could be fitted so as to be carried across a saddle, without any great inconvenience to the rider, who, from its simple working, could light it or put it out without alighting from his horse. Signals have been made out from this light upwards of ten miles, and that with a thick mist, such as one gets in Dartmouth Bay, where my instrument was tried.

Captain Tyler, R.E., in his report to the Committee of the Lords of Privy Council for Trade (with regard to the use of my apparatus on railways), says, "Such a light would, no doubt, be useful in some cases for giving exceptional signals, but it would be expensive for common use,"—this, owing to the price of magnesium, 10*s.* per ounce, but which the manufacturers say would be reduced as the demand for it increased. Captain Tyler gave it as his opinion that it would be useful in siege operations.

It is not improbable that a light of this kind appearing in their midst would strike terror and awe in the breast of those savages, and, acting on their superstitious fears, help considerably towards bringing them under subjection.

I would, Sir, wait on you personally, but having lost a leg (in the service of my country) it is not easy for me to travel so far from this.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES ROSS BAMBER,
Captain, R.N.

Enclosure 10 in No. 376.

Mr. RAE to the Under Secretary of State for India.

My Lord,

27, Fenchurch Street, September 4th, 1867.

I beg most respectfully to draw the attention of your Lordship to a "Filtering Army Water Cart," which I have designed expressly for the use of soldiers when on foreign service, more especially where a supply of pure water cannot be obtained.

The cart in question is designed in a light portable form, weighing, complete, not more than 10 cwt*s.*, or, with 200 gallons of water, under 28 cwt*s.* It could be drawn easily by one horse or mule, and is capable of filtering over 600 gallons per day. The cart is fitted with a small hand pump, for pumping water into the filter from rivers or pools on the line of march. The system of filtration invented by me

has been highly approved by Drs. Letheby and Thompson, who stated that it was one of the best within their knowledge.

The principal object I have in now addressing your Lordship is to point out the desirability of furnishing these carts for the use of the expedition about to proceed to Abyssinia. I am fully convinced, in that case, no danger to the troops or cattle need be apprehended from the use of impure water."

The cost of the carts complete is but trifling, and I would undertake, if your Lordship so wished, to have a number of them made and delivered in the course of two or three weeks at latest.

If your Lordship would kindly grant me an interview, or appoint some gentleman to whom I could show the models and drawings and explain the nature and advantages of the invention, it would at any time afford me great pleasure to attend the commands of your Lordship.

Waiting the favour of a reply,

I have, &c.,
JAMES RAE,
Engineer.

Enclosure 11 in No. 376.

Mr. RAE to the Under Secretary of State for India.

My Lord,

27, Fenchurch Street, September 13th, 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter, dated the 11th instant, with respect to Patent Army Water Cart.

Enclosed I beg to hand drawings (No. 2) of the cart referred to in my former letter, and likewise drawings (Nos. 3 and 4) of two others, of a much lighter description, which I think, from their lesser weight, may be found more suitable for Abyssinian expedition.

As these plans will help very much to illustrate the nature of the invention, I beg respectfully to request that they may be forwarded, with copy of my letter, to the authorities at Bombay.

Drawing No. 2 is a plan of water cart and filter for ordinary army use, will contain 220 gallons, weighs 10 cwt., and, though stated to filter only 650 gallons, will actually filter from 800 to 1,000 gallons per day.

The cart is fitted with a pump, to draw water from any pond or river, without regard to its quality, the cistern being so formed that the sediment or mud sinks to the conical bottom, and is drawn off occasionally by means of a cock fitted for that purpose, thus preventing any accumulation of foul matter in the cistern.

The filters, which are self-supplying, are placed in the bottom of cistern, and will contain 50 gallons of pure water ready for instant use.

As the process of filtration is by ascension, the filter is not so likely to become foul or clogged so soon as the other kinds of filters at present used, nor does the filtering substance require to be replenished so often, one charge lasting, on an average, 12 months.

At the back of cart a number of taps are fitted, to enable a number of men to draw off the filtered water at the same time. It will be found that the water when drawn is quite cool, even in very hot weather, the cart being constructed with a space between the wood case and cistern, to allow a constant circulation of air.

Price of cart complete, 68/.

Drawing No. 3 is somewhat smaller in capacity than the above. It will hold 120 gallons, weighs 6½ cwt., and will filter from 600 to 800 gallons a day.

It is constructed without the wood casing, the iron tank forming itself the cart. To protect the metal from the heat of the sun, it is covered with canvas, a considerable space being left for a current of air to circulate; the L. and T. irons, marked B.B.B., are perforated for this purpose. The cart is fitted with pump, cocks, &c. as No. 2.

Price, complete, 58/.

Drawing No. 4 shows a cart fitted with one filter only, will hold 50 gallons, weight 5 cwt. It is capable of filtering 350 to 400 gallons a day. In construction it is similar to No. 3, fitted with pump, cocks, &c. complete.

Price, 45/.

The cart shown at bottom of Sheet No. 2 is intended to carry a supply of filtered water; will hold 250 gallons, weight, 8 cwt. The canvas awning shown in red is a further protection from the heat of the sun.

Price, 48/.

Carts for the same purpose, constructed similar in size and form to Nos. 3 and 4, price, 40/ and 30/ respectively.

It can hardly be doubted that, in the event of these carts being supplied to the Abyssinian expedition, a most beneficial result must follow, and that sickness and disease among the men and horses, from drinking impure water, will be to a great extent prevented.

Trusting the invention will be viewed in a favourable light by the Government of Bombay, and be adopted for the occasion in question,

I have, &c.,
JAMES RAE, Engineer.

Enclosure 12 in No. 376."

Messrs. J. TYLOR & SONS to the Secretary of State for India in Council.

Sir,

Warwick Lane, Newgate Street, September 3d, 1867.

We have a Grant's distilling apparatus, capable of distilling about 4,000 gallons of drinking water in 24 hours, just ready for shipment.

In case you should require such an apparatus for fixing at Suez or any other port, for the Abyssinian expedition, we should be glad to be put into communication with the Officer who superintends the expedition.

This apparatus is similar in size and construction to the one we made for the East India Company 10 years since, which has been at work at Aden, and of which we hold a complete testimonial.

Soliciting the favour of a reply to this note,

We remain, &c.,

J. TYLOR AND SONS.

P. S.—We are in a position to prove that Grant's is the most economical distilling apparatus, if permitted to submit the facts of actual comparison with others.

Enclosure 13 in No. 376.

Dr. NORMANDY to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Holly Bush Place, Bethnal Green Road, 31st August 1867.

I beg to bring under your notice an extract from a report to the Army Medical Department from the British Military Hospital at Suez, and to inform you of my desire that the hospital ships now preparing for the Abyssinian expedition should be provided with similar apparatus, and also to supply any that may be required for land stations. I may mention that we are now making some large apparatus for Aden, Malta, and that I have also fitted the "Serapis," and the other transport ships. I have also taken the liberty of forwarding other testimonials, and shall be most happy to give any other information you may require.

Trusting you will excuse the liberty I am taking in thus troubling you,

I am, &c.,

A. NORMANDY.

Enclosure 14 in No. 376.

Mr. CALVERT to Mr. CLIFTON.

My dear Sir,

7, Bond Street, Manchester, 3d September 1867.

In reply to your inquiries respecting the use of carbolic acid for preserving our soldiers in Abyssinia, and against the development of what is called the "Guinea worm," I have much pleasure in stating that I am of opinion that the proper use of that substance will preserve our soldiers from the attack of the flies which give rise to the worm, and also that it is susceptible of being applied with equal success to destroy the worm; also, if from oversight it has been allowed to develop itself upon the human system. What justifies me in forming such an opinion is, that a solution of carbolic acid has been used for a long period at Manchester workhouse and other public institutions with marked success to cure the itch in man; that it has been applied by several medical men with success in fungoid; that our firm has sold thousands of gallons of a preparation of carbolic acid for curing the scab in sheep and destroying all kinds of vermin living on animals, as it has cured the mange in dogs, and removed all fleas about their bodies; that it has the property of driving away flies from spots where they accumulate, such as petties, public-house bars, and butchers' shops.

Lastly, I have been informed that, if carbolic acid is sprinkled about the floors of kitchens, all cockroaches and beetles disappear. Also horned cattle washed with a solution of it are free from all annoyance of flies.

I would suggest that a small quantity of carbolic acid, say one part acid to 200 parts water, should be used for the soldiers to wash themselves with when they are in such a part of the country where the fly exists, or to sponge themselves with such a solution; or again, if in such parts of the country where the supply of water is limited, they might then sprinkle a little strong carbolic acid about their clothes and haversacks.

In conclusion, I would suggest that, if at any time the larva was to appear on any of the soldiers, and bring on the inflammation which characterizes the development of the insect, to the diseased parts should be applied the pure acid full strength.

Trusting that the above will meet with your approval,

Believe me, &c.,

F. C. CALVERT.

No. 377.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

Military, No. 269.

Sir,

India Office, 16th September 1867.

No. 48.

Nos. 193 and 376.

With reference to my Despatch in the Secret Department, dated the 19th of August last, No. 3, I forward, for your information, copies of two Despatches (Nos. 107 and 119), dated the 3d and 16th instant, which I have addressed to the Government of Bombay, respecting the expedition to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 378.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 16th September 1867.

In reference to your letter dated 9th instant, I am instructed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that the Military Store Officers at the Tower and Woolwich have been instructed to communicate particulars as to tonnage, &c. in all cases direct to the Director-General of Stores for India. No. 269.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 379.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 16th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 11th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that an additional 500 rounds per gun for the two batteries of 7-pounder mountain guns to be used in Abyssinia has been ordered on repayment from Woolwich. No. 310.

It is reported that this extra supply can be got ready for issue under ordinary circumstances in four weeks time, or by working extra time in about a fortnight; and Sir John Pakington will accordingly be glad to learn the latest date which Sir Stafford Northcote can allow for its completion.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 380.

The Consul at Alicante to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received September 17.)

My Lord, Alicante, September 12, 1867.

With reference to my Despatch of the 10th instant, I beg to acquaint your Lordship that Mr. Assistant Commissary-General Cumming has just brought me a telegram from the Secretary for War, which would seem to indicate that he is supposed to be drawing bills on the Treasury. I have consequently at once consented to indorse all the bills which Captain Whinyate and he may consider necessary for the objects of the Commission. No. 365.

I have, &c.,
BENJ. BARRIE.

No. 381.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 17, 1867.

With reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the information of Secretary Sir John Pakington, the accompanying copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Alicante, reporting that he has consented to indorse all bills drawn by Captain Whinyate and Mr. Cumming for purposes connected with the purchase of mules for Abyssinia. No. 366.
No. 380.

I have, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 382.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.

My Lord, Foreign Office, September 17, 1867.

I referred to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India your Excellency's despatches of the 3rd instant, addressed to Mr. Murray, stating on what terms the Austrian No. 228.

No. 336.

Government would be willing to furnish that of Her Majesty with a supply of Maria Theresa dollars for the use of the projected Abyssinian expedition, and I transmit to you herewith the reply which has been received from the India Office on the subject.

And I have to instruct your Excellency to thank the Austrian Government for the offer made by them, and to inform them that Her Majesty's Government have no present occasion to avail themselves of that offer.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 383.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 17th September 1867.

No. 336.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, forwarding a letter from the Horse Guards, in which it is suggested by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief that a supply of leather leggings, of a similar pattern to those generally worn by the Volunteers, should be forwarded for the use of the European troops proceeding to Abyssinia.

2. In reply I am instructed to state, that Sir Stafford Northcote entirely concurs in the suggestion, and I am to request that instructions may be given to the Clothing Department to furnish, as soon as possible, 4,000 pairs of such leggings, and to deliver them over to the India Office Store Department for shipment.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 384.

The Italian Ambassador to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Received September 17, 1867.

My Lord,

Londres, Septembre 16, 1867.

Je viens d'être informé par son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères que le Ministre de la Guerre, prenant un très-grand intérêt à l'expédition prochaine qui se prépare en ce royaume pour la délivrance des captifs de l'Abyssinie, parmi lesquels votre Excellence se rappelle sans doute il y a un sujet Italien, voudrait bien que deux Officiers de l'Armée du Roi puissent être admis à faire partie de l'Etat Major du Général qui aura le Commandement.

Je suis donc officiellement chargé de communiquer à votre Excellence le désir que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de lui exprimer, et j'espère qu'avec sa bienveillance accoutumée elle ne voudra pas me refuser son appui auprès du département compétent.

En lui en offrant d'avance mes plus vifs remerciements,

Je saisis, &c.,
D'AZEGLIO.

No. 385.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 17th, 1867.

No. 384.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Italian Minister at this Court, expressing the desire of his Government that two Officers of the Italian Army may be permitted to accompany the Staff of the Abyssinian expedition; and I am to request that you will lay the Marquis d'Azeglio's letter before Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, and that you will move him to favour Lord Stanley with his opinion as to the answer which should be returned to it.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 386.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 17th, 1867.

Snider rifle ammunition, and any stores likely to be carried on pack animals, should be packed in boxes of not more than 80 lbs. weight.

No. 387.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 17th, 1867.

We require to know, as early as possible, when Sir R. Napier will make his demand, and when we are likely to hear whether actual hostilities will become necessary.

At what date will the first brigade start from Bombay?

No. 388.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 17th, 1867.

Send to Suez, overland, the 500 MacGwire blanket hammocks asked for in April last.

No. 389.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 17th, 1867.

I have received a telegram from Colonel Kennedy, and have consequently desired our Agent in Egypt to leave the purchase of the mules to him. Let me know by telegraph what stores you send overland, to whom they will be consigned, and when they will be at Suez.

No. 390.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Rev. Dr. KRAPF, Kornthal,
near Stuttgart.

Rev. Sir, India Office, 17th September 1867.

I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to inform you, that Her Majesty's Government having determined to despatch an armed force to Abyssinia, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir R. Napier, with a view to demand, and, if need be, to compel, the liberation of British subjects and other Europeans detained by King Theodore, Sir R. Napier has expressed a desire to have the advantage of your services on the occasion.

I am, therefore, to propose that you should accompany the expedition in the capacity of a dragoman of the Amharic language, placing yourself entirely under the directions of Sir Robert Napier, and rendering him such assistance in the way of information as your acquaintance with the habits and manners of the Abyssinians may enable you to afford. You will, of course, understand that you should not enter into separate correspondence

See No. 313.

with any persons in Abyssinia without the previous consent of the Commander-in-Chief; and that it will be necessary for you to abstain from any missionary enterprises, or any attempt to make converts, or to engage in religious controversy, while you are attached to the expedition.

Your travelling expenses will, of course, be defrayed by Her Majesty's Government. You will be entitled to a free passage in any one of Her Majesty's ships which are now continually passing between Suez and Massowah should you find it desirable, and you will be allowed free rations while you are with the force. The sum of 600*l.* will also be allotted to you to cover any other expenses to which you may be put, and you are authorized to draw for one half of that amount forthwith if you assent to these proposals, notifying the same to me without delay. The remainder will be paid after the conclusion of the expedition.

Your presence at Massowah is desired as early as may be convenient to you. A party of Officers have already been sent to the coast to make observations, and, though the main body of the expedition will probably not begin to arrive till the middle or end of November, your services might be of use at an earlier period. It may be necessary to employ you in drawing up proclamations and other documents before the actual arrival of the army.

You will not be expected to remain in Abyssinia after the conclusion of the expedition, that is to say, after the complete liberation of the captives has been effected.

In conclusion, I am to assure you that you may expect the most courteous and friendly treatment at the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, who has especially desired your assistance, and of the British authorities in general.

No. 313. I am directed by Sir S. Northcote to return you his thanks for the information and suggestions contained in your letter of the 11th instant, addressed to his Private Secretary, as well as for the friendly spirit in which it is written.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 391.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Dr. KRAFF to the Private Secretary of the Secretary of State for India, dated Kornthal, near Stuttgart, 17th September 1867.

No. 313. Whilst thanking for your letter of the 14th, which I have just received, I beg to inform you that to your letter of the 5th I have sent a reply on the 11th, which I trust has come to hand by this time. I have placed myself at the entire disposal of Her Majesty's Government, and hope to receive an early reply as to their further request, and especially as to the time of my departure, for, as you rightly say, time is of the utmost importance. The sooner the better. If possible, on the 20th or 25th of November, or, at the latest, on the beginning of December, the force should move inland, on account of the rain, which should be avoided as far as possible.

Since writing my last letter, I have often thought of the advisability of attaching to me a young Abyssinian, about 20 years of age, who is being educated in an institution in the Grand Duchy of Baden. He would, no doubt, in various ways, prove useful as a trustworthy messenger in carrying letters, &c., and he will besides render assistance in the interpreting department. But he does not speak English, but only German. He would not be at a great charge to the army, as he would pass as my servant.

Lastly, I would submit to Sir Stafford Northcote's consideration, whether it would not be very advisable to attach a second European to me as a dragoman, for we cannot know whether one individual may fall sick and be prevented from energetic services. Should Her Majesty's Government condescend to enter into this proposal, I would recommend my talented friend Mr. Haussmann, who has been, several years ago, for some time in Abyssinia, who personally, like myself, knows King Theodorus, who tolerably knows Amharic, and speaks and writes English, and is a perfect scholar of the learned and vulgar Arabic, having stayed at Cairo as pastor of the Germans, and as missionary among the Arabs. He is at present on a visit to his family and friends in Wurtemberg. I have not yet spoken to him on this subject, but I have no doubt he would accede to the proposal if made by Sir Stafford.

I guess interpreters will be wanted in various quarters of the army, which will have rather a want of them than a surplusage.

No. 392.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, 17th September 1867.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Secretary of State for India, that the expenditure on account of the Abyssinian expedition, so far as the expenditure on account thereof by the Naval Department can be estimated at the present moment, will amount to the following sums, viz. :—

	£
In the Transport Department - - - -	340,000
Storekeeper-General's Department (for coals, &c.) -	268,000
Comptroller of Victualling (Provisions, &c.) - - -	30,000
	£638,000

Payments on account of these sums are to be made in the usual course through the Accountant-General of the Navy, and my Lords propose to submit monthly to the India Office a statement of the payments that may be made, accompanied by the proper documents, in order that the necessary transfers of the sums so paid may be made, as arranged with the Treasury, to the credit of Naval votes.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 393.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 17th September 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 10th instant, conveying the request of the Secretary of State for India to be supplied with more copies of the pamphlet by Dr. Beke, relating to the victualling of a British army in the Red Sea, I am desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state that there are no more copies of the pamphlet in this Office; and to suggest that Sir Stafford Northcote should cause application to be made to Dr. Beke on the subject.

I am, &c.,
GEO. A. HAMILTON.

No. 394.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 17th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a telegram which has been received from Colonel Clark Kennedy, the Officer charged with the direction of the arrangements connected with the delivery at Alexandria of the mules purchased for the Abyssinian expedition, reporting that Captain Bartholomew had arrived at Cairo from Bombay to purchase mules, &c.; and I am to request that, in laying this telegram before Sir Stafford Northcote, you will urge him to send instructions to the Agent of the Indian Government in Egypt, with a view to the prevention of the complications anticipated by Colonel Kennedy, who was despatched upon this service with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for India.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 394.

Telegram from Colonel J. CLARK KENNEDY, Alexandria, to the Secretary of State for War.

Captain Bartholomew has arrived at Cairo from Bombay to purchase mules and pack-horses, and contract for their forage. If purchase made by two parties, increased expense very serious, and complications endless. My arrangement with Egyptian Government complete. Instruct us by telegram. I telegraph to-day the nature of my duty in Egypt to Governor of Bombay and Captain Bartholomew.

No. 395.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 18th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that a telegram has been received from Bombay this morning, reporting that the Agent sent by that Government to Egypt has been desired to leave the purchase of mules in the hands of Colonel Clark Kennedy.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 396.

Telegram from the Quartermaster-General, Bombay, to the Military Secretary, India Office, September 18th, 1867.

Please inform Captain Henry Moore, Staff Corps, cadre 6th Bombay Native Infantry, that Sir Robert Napier will attach him to the Intelligence Department, Abyssinia Field Force, in a subordinate position, if he will come to Bombay before the 15th November.

No. 397.

Mr. BRIDGTOWER to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. — (Received September 18.)

Monsieur,

Via Tritone, No. 19, Rome, le 13 Septembre 1867.

La douloureuse et irréparable perte que j'ai faite de ma mère a été la cause qui m'a empêché de m'adresser à vous plus vite.

Monsieur, la chose dont je viendrais vous parler est d'un très-haut intérêt pour moi, et ça pourrait se faire qu'elle devient importante aussi à la nation et Cour Anglaise, si vous, qui est un homme diplomate, vous lui prêtiez une oreille amicale et un œil fouillant.

Soit par les registres des pasports, soit par des journaux on peut bien relever comme pendant les années 1784-1795 près, un individu Abyssinien de haut rang parvint à Londres, venant de la Pologne, où il fit mariage avec Mary Ursula, de la Maison des Comtes Schmidt, fait qu'on prouve par acte authentique de baptême de leur fils. Ce Monsieur Abyssinien fut autant aimé par le Roi Britannique George III. que à son fils (père de ma mère, native de Londres) lui donna le nom de George, et lui créa le nom de famille Bridgtower. Le père de ma mère devait être, par volonté du Roi, un Amiral ; mais à cause de sa trop courte vue il dut abandonner si belle et honorante carrière, et déployé un talent et une abilité pas commune sur la musique, il devint un excellent violoniste, et par Sa Majesté George IV. fut nommé Directeur des Concerts de la Cour, et il demeura continuellement au Palais de Carlton House ; toutes choses vérifiables avec beaucoup de facilité car des mémoires de Sir Bridgtower doivent par nécessité y être dans la Cour de Londres.

Mon grand-père fut si intime dans la Famille Royale qu'il ne put faire à moins d'être compris dans le procès de la Princesse Charlotte de Brunswick, épouse de George IV., et ne pouvant pas approuver quelque particularité de celui-là il fut obligé de se retirer de la Cour, et seulement par des intrigues d'un individu bien contraire à lui, il perdit la pension que de cette Cour il recevait. Après tout ça quand l'actuelle Majesté la Reine Victoire monta sur le Trône de la Grande Bretagne, Sir Bridgtower revint à Londres et présenta sa fille à Sa Majesté Britannique la Reine Victoire, étant aux bains de Bath, en disant à elle qu'il aurait espéré qu'un jour sa fille fût placée parmi les dames de Cour : mais tout ça vint à manquer pour des raisons toutes spéciales.

Les plus tristes circonstances de famille et des haines fraternelles ont fait que je fusse privé de tous les papiers pour lesquelles il m'aurait été facile de faire valoir les raisons pour revenger les droits de mon bisaïeul : mais à présent je suis obligé d'y retourner au-dessus en recueillant les documents et les preuves là où je puis arriver par moi-même. Déjà j'en ai beaucoup et irréfragables, mais pas tous. La Cour d'Angleterre pourrait m'en fournir plusieurs ; et je suis dans l'attente de réponses à ce propos de bien de pays. Monsieur, qu'il ne vous surprenne pas la chose, mais mon bisaïeul était le plus près et légitime héritier de la Couronne et du Trône d'Abyssinie, pays qu'il laissa pour raisons particulières. Comme tel il vecut à la Cour de Londres, de Dresde, et de Paris, comme tel fut nommé par la Haute Police Municipale de Paris avec rapport du 30 Septembre, 1840, que nous conservons en original ; comme tel fut reconnu par le Frère du Reignant Ubié, Seigneur du Tigre, quand de l'Abyssinie il se rendit à Rome en 1841 pour baiser le pied de Sa Sainteté le Pape Gregorio XVI., fait qu'on prouve par des pièces en propos par nous conservé.

Pour rendre évident cette descendance plus d'un évêque y a pris part, et entre autres une lettre de moi, peu de temps en arrière, est parvenue à Monseigneur Enrique Edward Manning, Archevêque de Westminster, à laquelle je confie d'y recevoir réponse ; et une autre lettre encore j'écrirai bientôt à l'actuel Consul Anglais en Alexandrie, en Egypte, d'où j'en espère les plus valables et notables éclaircissements pour constater sur moi et mon frère les droits de descendance qui nous lient à l'Abyssinie.

Notre nom dans ces lointains pays est déjà connu et l'Angleterre le verra publié en Massowah dans l'église dédiée à St. Joseph ; et dans l'ici joint lambeau de lettre écrite par Monseigneur Lorenzo Biancheri, Vicaire Apostolique d'Abyssinie, daté de Massowah, le 20 Octobre 1863, vous y apprendrez le sentiment de ces peuples à notre égard.

* * * * *

Toutes personnes qui savent lire ne laissent de me demander que veut dire cette inscription ; et moi alors je leur dis l'histoire de ce jeune fils du Negus qui laissa l'Abyssinie pour se rendre en Pologne où il se maria. De ce mariage en eurent un fils, et de celui-ci en naquit la Dame Félicie, épouse de celui qui peignit les tableaux et Alexandre et Charle sont les fils de Luis et de Félicie et par conséquence, du côté maternel, descendant de la famille de Salomon. Vous ne pouvez pas croire quelle impression leur fasse de savoir se trouver à Rome des descendants de leur ancienne dynastie, mais ils sont aussi opprimés par le présent Empereur et aussi craintifs de son nom qu'ils n'osent exprimer le désir de revoir de nouveaux la famille de Salomon sur leur Trône, &c."

L'Angleterre va à mettre une barrière aux folles ambitions d'un tiran usurpateur ; vous, si ça pouvait entrer dans les vues des intérêts de la nation Anglaise, vous Monsieur, vous pourriez apprendre bien de choses à ce propos. Monsieur, je ne vous fais pas la relation d'un fait tout simplement, mais je vous présente les moyens de le vérifier si ça peut vous intéresser. Je ne vous fais aucune demande, c'est à votre magnanimité que j'attache un espoir d'être aidé par vous afin que je puisse être reconnu par la Cour Anglaise comme l'arrière-neveu de cet Abyssinien, connu en Europe sous le nom de Prince Noir.

Une réponse de vous, dont je ne crois pas être trop indiscret en vous la demandant, elle me donnera occasion de vous offrir d'autres éclaircissements et la copie des documents que je possède si vous jugerez vous être utiles, ou bien si vous pensez pouvoir m'aider en ce que je cherche d'obtenir, sur que votre reconnaissance ne vous manquera jamais.

Soyez, &c.

FR. ALEXANDER MS. MARZARA BRIDGTOWER.

Abstract of the preceding Letter.

The writer's maternal grandfather was born in England, and was son of an Abyssinian gentleman of high degree, who, for private reasons, was compelled to leave his country. The son became a great favourite of George III.; was named by the King, George Bridgtower. As he was too short-sighted to be made an Admiral, which office the King was anxious to confer upon him, he became a great fiddler, and was appointed by George IV. Director of the Royal Concerts, with apartments at Carlton House.

His intimacy with the Royal Family was so great that he could not avoid being mixed up in the trial of Princess Charlotte of Brunswick, wife of George IV. As, however, some steps taken in the case did not meet with his approval, he retired into private life, and was shortly after deprived by certain intriguers of his Court pension.

On the Queen's accession, "Sir Bridgtower" returned to Court from the mineral waters of Bath, and presented his daughter (the writer's mother) to the young Queen, expressing the hope that a place might be found for her among the ladies of the Court.

Circumstances over which he had no control prevented this arrangement being carried out.

The writer's great grandfather was the rightful heir to the throne of Abyssinia. Paternal hatred and family misfortunes have deprived him of the means of proving his case, but he is diligently seeking them at home and abroad. He, however, possesses incontestable proof that his great grandfather proceeded to Rome and kissed the Pontiff's foot, besides visiting London, Paris, and Dresden.

Archbishop Manning and the English Consul at Alexandria have been applied to, and will doubtless furnish valuable information.

Monseigneur Biancheri, Vicar Apostolique of Abyssinia, has discovered, by an inscription in the church at Massowah, that the writer is descended, on his mother's side, from King Solomon, and his installation as King would be gratefully hailed by all Abyssinians.

The writer finally thinks this a favourable moment for mounting the Throne of King Theodore, and hopes he will meantime be recognized as great nephew of the "Black Prince," by which title this Abyssinian noble was well known in Europe.

No. 398.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

War Office, September 18, 1867.

No. 366. I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, inclosing the copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Alicante relative to the course to be pursued in regard to providing the officers sent from England to purchase mules for the Abyssinian expedition, with the necessary funds for that purpose.

In reply, I am to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Stanley, that a Commissariat officer has been appointed with each of the parties despatched upon this service to the following places, viz., Alicante, Valencia, Barcelona, Brindisi, Constantinople, Scanderoon, and Beyrout, and that this officer is empowered to draw Treasury Bills for such funds as may be required.

In case, however, of the necessary absence of the military officer who should countersign these Treasury Bills whenever practicable, it would be an advantage were the Consuls directed to countersign the bills so drawn by the Commissariat officer.

The Consuls might also be requested to attest verbally to parties applying to them the validity of the bills drawn upon the British Treasury.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 399.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, War Office, September 18, 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the arrangements in connection with the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will inform Lord Stanley that it has been represented by the Senior Commissariat officer at Gibraltar, who is entrusted with the duty of inspecting the mule purchasing establishments on the coast of Spain, that it would much facilitate proceedings at Alicante and Valencia, as well as save heavy port dues and fees, could the Spanish Government be induced to allow the mule transports calling at these ports to be treated as military shipping.

With this view I am to request that you will move Lord Stanley to send the necessary instructions to Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of Madrid.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 400.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Major J. U. CHAMPAIN, R.E.

Sir, India Office, 18th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for your information, a copy of a telegram which has been received from the Government of India to day, respecting the insulators to be adopted for the flying lines of telegraph in Abyssina; and I am to request that you will give Sir Stafford Northcote your opinion on the subject. No. 374.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 401.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the President of the Medical Board for the Examination of Indian Officers.

Sir, India Office, 18th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to inquire your opinion on the expediency of obtaining, for the use of the Medical Department with the projected expedition to Abyssinia, a supply of the fever medicine well known as Warburg's drops.

Sir Stafford Northcote has been assured that the medicine has been extensively used in some parts of India, and that a supply has lately been ordered by the Admiralty, for use in the Jamaica hospital.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 402.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 18th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, that he approves of the additional 500 rounds per gun having been ordered for the two batteries of 7-pounder mountain guns to be used in Abyssinia, and to request that instructions may No. 379.

be given to have the extra supply ready for embarkation on the troop ship which will sail on the 9th of October.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 403.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir, India Office, 18th September 1867.

No. 345. I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of the proposal to send a Non-commissioned Officer and six men of the Royal Engineers, who have been trained as photographers, to accompany the force about to be sent to Abyssinia.

2. Sir Stafford Northcote desires me to add, that they should proceed to join the expedition under the command of Lieutenant St. John, R.E., the Officer appointed to take charge of the stores connected with the telegraph establishment.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 404.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 18th September 1867.

No. 390. I transmit herewith for the information of Lord Stanley, a copy of a letter which has been addressed by order of Sir Stafford Northcote to the Rev. Dr. Krapf; and am to request that, in laying the same before his Lordship, you will move him to issue such instructions as may appear requisite to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Cairo to facilitate, as far as may be in his power, Dr. Krapf's early arrival at Massowah.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 405.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 18th September 1867.

No. 333. In reply to Major-General Pears's letter of the 13th instant, requesting that Sir Stafford Northcote may be informed of the progress that has been made in the collection of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of Sir Stafford Northcote, that, from the latest reports received, the following is the result of the efforts of the Officers who have been despatched on this service.

To present date collected at

Malta	-	-	-	-	-	200
Gibraltar	-	-	-	-	-	93
(expected next week, 150).						
Wetherell & Co.	-	-	-	-	-	1,100 or 1,300
(contractors in Spain).						
Valencia, contracted for	-	-	-	-	-	500
(of which 200 to be delivered by 20th inst.)						

Actually purchased and contracted for - 2,093

Alicante.—Purchases to commence on the 12th instant.

Barcelona.—Plenty of mules obtainable.

Genoa.—650 mules can be obtained at once, but party has been removed to Brindisi, where mules can be obtained at about 22*l.*, and freight thence to Alexandria 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per mule.

Reports as to progress made in the Levant have not yet been received, with the exception of Constantinople, where mules are stated to be not abundant ; but, should the number allotted (1,500) be not obtained in time, the limits placed upon the purchases in Spain and Italy can be extended, as offers for mules in those countries are numerous at reduced prices.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 406.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 18th September 1867.
I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that, in a telegram received from Bombay to-day, it is requested that the Snider rifle No. 386. ammunition and any stores likely to be carried on pack animals may be packed in boxes of not more than 80 lbs. weight.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 407.

Major CHAMPAIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 5, John Street, Adelphi, 18th September 1867.
I have the honour to report that I have, in communication with the Director-General of Stores, arranged for the equipment of the field telegraph train for service in Abyssinia, as far as regards the semi-permanent and flying lines.

Orders have been issued for the delivery of the material required, and I believe that during the first week of October all will be ready for shipment.

In my preliminary letter, of the 3d instant, I had the honour to submit a list of the No. 190. stores which I considered necessary, and a rough estimate of their probable cost. Writing at short notice I was unable to give full details, and my guess at the cost of copper wire was considerably below the real rate.

To avoid all chance of confusion, I now beg to submit in two sheets a revised and more accurate estimate of the stores required. Sheet I. has been already sent by me to the Stores Department, and differs but little from the list I sent to you. Sheet II. contains details of tools, &c., and provides for 50 miles of light homogenous iron wire, which should, I think, be sent out for short lines that may possibly be run up along the coast, or for reserve material for semi-permanent line.

I respectfully request that these two sheets of estimate may be sanctioned *in supersession of my former list*.

With regard to the appointment of Officers and men from Chatham, I was informed at the Horse Guards that all preparations would be made at once, but that, before any decided steps were taken, the question must be submitted to His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief.

Colonel Simmons, R.E., promised to get together 1 Subaltern and 25 men for the flying lines, and agreed with me on the advisability of sending, in addition, 1 Subaltern and 10 men to work the day and night signalling apparatus. He also kindly consented to undertake the preparation of the necessary portable signals and lamps. In a few days I shall be able to report more fully on this branch of the equipment.

I think a second letter ought to be written to the Horse Guards, asking them to instruct Colonel Simmons to hold in readiness for foreign service 1 Subaltern and 10 men of the Royal Engineers (trained to the working of these signals), besides 1 Subaltern and 25 men previously called for.

I have, &c.,
JOHN U. CHAMPAIN, Major,
Royal Engineers.

Enclosure 1 in No. 407.

No. I.

TABULAR STATEMENT of STORES required for the Equipment of Field Telegraph Train for Abyssinia.
5, John Street, Adelphi, 12th September 1867.

Amount.	Specification.	From whom to be obtained.	Estimate of probable Cost.	Per	Probable Total Cost.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
50 miles.	"Hooper's core," 20 in diameter, consisting of three strands of copper wire, of not less than 85 conductivity, covered with india-rubber, &c., including drums and packing.	Messrs. Hooper, 7, Pall Mall East.	45 0 0	mile	2,250 0 0
	Add 3 per cent. on the above, payable to Mr. Latimer Clark for testing the said core.	- - -	- - -	-	67 10 0
350 miles, at 64 lbs. per mile = 22,400 lbs.	No. 16 W.G. copper wire of 18° standard, including joining in lengths of two miles and winding.	Messrs. Thomas Bolton and Sons, Broad Street, Birmingham.	0 1 2	lb.	1,306 13 4
175	Drums for winding the same - - -	" "	1 0 0	each	175 0 0
4 cwt.	Iron wire, No. 8 gauge, in lengths of 30 feet, for stays.	Messrs. Siemens Brothers, Great George Street, Westminster.	2 0 0	cwt.	8 0 0
2,000	Insulators, each consisting of a cast-iron top, china insulator, and wrought-iron support, two hoop-iron bands, and 10 nails, packed in strong deal cases of 200 each, with compartment containing the following tools, viz., 2 hammers, 2 files, 2 pair cutting nippers, 2 gimlets, and 12 sheets emery paper.	" "	0 2 6	each	250 0 0
2,000	Insulators, each consisting of one wrought-iron spike, one china insulator, with hook above and below, packed as above with similar tools.	" "	0 2 6	"	250 0 0
8	Portable recording relay instruments, in cases complete.	" "	32 0 0	"	256 0 0
12	Portable recording field instruments, in cases complete.	" "	25 0 0	"	300 0 0
12	Cases, each containing 12 "Marie Davy's" elements for field instruments.	" "	0 15 0	cell	108 0 0
8	Cases, each containing 24 ditto, ditto, for relay instruments.	" "	0 15 0	"	144 0 0
12	Portable cases, each containing one copper earthplate, with connecting wires, one set of assorted repairing tools, 50 yards covered wire for connexions, six bottles of printing ink, 25 discs Morse paper.	" "	8 0 0	"	96 0 0
4	Cases, each containing one set of repairing instruments, one copper earthplate, 100 yards covered wire for connexions, 100 discs Morse paper, 12 bottles of printing ink.	" "	10 0 0	"	40 0 0
4	Magnetic field instruments, in cases complete.	Mr. Henley, 27, Leadenhall Street.	26 10 0	"	106 0 0
Total probable cost			-	- £	5,357 3 4

JOHN U. CHAMPAIN,
Major, R.E.

Enclosure 2 in No. 407.

No. II.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST of STORES required for the Equipment of Field Telegraph Train for Abyssinia.

Amount or Number.	Specification.	From whom to be obtained.	Estimate of probable Cost.	Per.	Probable Total Cost.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
8	Cases, each containing eight large-size "Marie Davy's" elements for local batteries.	Messrs. Siemens Brothers, Great George Street, Westminster.	3 0 0	case	24 0 0
2	Galvanometers, in portable cases, complete, for testing purposes.	" "	8 0 0	each	16 0 0
100 lbs.	Pro-sulphate of mercury, packed in hermetically sealed tins, of 5 lbs. each.	" "	0 4 0	lb.	20 0 0
500 discs	Morse paper, for relay instruments -	" "	0 0 8½	each	17 14 2
500 discs	Morse paper, for field instruments -	" "	0 0 8½	"	17 14 2
4	Lightning dischargers, with, each, two line plates.	" "	1 15 0	"	7 0 0
100	Connecting screws - - -	" "	0 0 10	"	4 3 4
72	Bottles of ink for instruments -	" "	0 1 6	"	5 4 0
3 sets	Iron blocks and tackles, with 100 yards spare rope.	" "	1 10 0	"	4 10 0
50	Bill-hooks, in leather cases, for clearing thorns, &c.	" "	0 10 0	"	25 0
10	American axes, ditto, ditto - -	" "	0 10 0	"	5 0 0
20	Spare handles for the same - -	" "	0 1 0	"	1 0 0
6	Earth borers, 3½ inches diameter -	" "	0 12 6	"	3 15 0
12	Earth scoops - - -	" "	0 2 6	"	1 10 0
12	Hooks for fixing wire insulators -	" "	0 5 0	"	3 0 0
56	Whistles - - -	" "	0 2 0	"	5 12 0
25	Clasp knives, with lanyards - -	" "	0 5 0	"	6 5 0
6	Turnscrews - - -	" "	0 2 6	"	0 15 0
12	Despatch bags, with straps - -	" "	1 0 0	"	12 0 0
12	Two-wheeled barrows, for paying out and picking up wire, with tool box and grease pot attached.	" "	12 0 0	"	144 0 0
100	Matheson's ebonite connectors - -	Silver & Co., 67, Cornhill	0 4 0	"	20 0 0
6	Portable bivouac tents - - -	" "	6 0 0	"	36 0 0
6	Tables for the same - - -	" "	2 0 0	"	12 0 0
12	Camp stools for the same - - -	" "	0 12 6	"	7 10 0
6	India-rubber water bags - - -	" "	1 0 0	"	6 0 0
20	Globe lamps, at 14s - - - £7 0 0	" "	- - -	-	10 6 8
50	Pair stout hedger's gloves, at 1s. 4d. - 3 6 8	" "	- - -	-	10 6 8
50 miles	Galvanized homogeneous iron wire, 16 B.W.G., in coils of 135 lbs. each, packed in sacking.	W. T. Henley, 27, Leadenhall Street.	1 10 0	mile	75 0 0
	Assortment of stationery and printed forms (packing included). Details sent to Store Department.	Waterlow and Sons, Parliament Street.	- - -	-	55 0 0
1	India-rubber portable boat, 10 feet long, packed.	Matthews and Son, 58, Charing Cross.	- - -	-	25 0 0
6	Pocket compasses - - -	Elliott Brothers, 449, Strand.	0 5 0	each	1 10 0
4	Field glasses, in cases, complete -	" "	3 3 0	"	12 12 0
6	Portable clocks - - -	Benson, 60, Ludgate Hill	3 0 0	"	18 0 0
	Total probable cost -		- - -	- £	603 1 4

• JOHN U. CHAMPAIN,
Major, R.E.

No. 408.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 18th, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith a letter in quadruplicate addressed by his Lordship to King Theodore of Abyssinia, together with a copy of the same for the information of Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote; and I am to request that these letters, four in number, may be transmitted to the Resident at Aden, with instructions to forward them as quickly as possible by separate messengers, who should be directed to proceed by routes which may appear best calculated to ensure the letters, or, at all events, one of them, reaching King Theodore.

The letter now enclosed is designed to supersede that sent to you from this Office on the 9th instant, which I am to request may be returned to England.

Lord Stanley proposes in a few days to communicate fully with Sir Stafford Northcote on the subject of the instructions to be given to Sir Robert Napier for the government of his proceedings in other than military matters.

I am, &c.,

E. HAMMOND.

Enclosure in No. 408.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to His Majesty THEODORE, King of Abyssinia.

Foreign Office, London, September 9th, 1867.

Blue Book
of 1867,
page 77.
Ditto, page
148.

Many months have now elapsed since the Queen, my Sovereign, on the 4th of October 1866, and Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by command of Her Majesty, on the 16th of April of this year, appealed to your Majesty in order to obtain the release from the captivity in which they have for a long period been most unjustifiably held, of officers sent to your Court on public matters, and of other individuals who have come under your control.

But your Majesty has disregarded these successive appeals, has made light of the remonstrances and representations of the Queen, and has rejected the friendly overtures which have so repeatedly been made to you by Her Majesty's commands.

It is impossible for the Queen any longer to endure such conduct on the part of your Majesty, and Her Majesty has, therefore, given orders that a military force, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, K.C.B., should, without delay, enter your dominions, and obtain from you by force a concession which you have hitherto withheld from friendly representations.

For the result of this measure, whatever may be the consequences of it to your throne and to your country, your Majesty can alone be held responsible throughout the civilized world; and, although the Queen would fain hope that, even in this last hour, your Majesty may be induced to listen to words of peace, and avert by full and immediate concession the attack which in a short space of time will be directed against you, I am commanded by the Queen to warn your Majesty that the course of action which I now make known to you is irrevocably determined on, and that the only means of preserving your country from war, and your own power from overthrow, will be found in the delivery to the Commander of the British invading army of all European prisoners in your keeping; and it is the earnest desire of the Queen that this last opportunity which Her Majesty offers to you may be taken advantage of by your Majesty, and that peace may be so preserved between England and Abyssinia.

Having thus fulfilled the command of the Queen, my Sovereign, I bid your Majesty heartily farewell.

Your sincere friend,
STANLEY.

No. 409.

The Political Secretary, India Office, to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir,

India Office, September 18th, 1867.

No. 300.
Enclosure in
No. 408.

With reference to General Pears's letter of the 10th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward a letter addressed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to King Theodore of Abyssinia, in substitution of that which was sent to you by the last mail, and I am to request that you will consider the previous letter to be cancelled, and will return it, by the first opportunity, to this Office.

The letter to King Theodorus, now enclosed in quadruplicate, is to be forwarded by you with the utmost possible promptitude to Massowah, in charge of a confidential officer, and the several enclosures are to be despatched thence by separate trustworthy messengers, who should be directed to proceed by such routes as may appear to be best

calculated to ensure the safe delivery of the letters, or, at least, one of them, to King Theodore.

A copy of Lord Stanley's letter, which you will consider confidential, is enclosed.

I have, &c.,

J. WM. KAYE,
Secretary, Political Department.

No. 410.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay.

(No. 4, Secret.)

Sir,

India Office, 18th September 1867.

I despatched to your Excellency's Government, on the 11th instant, a telegram No. 301. in the following words:—

"Your telegram of 7th received. A letter to King Theodore from Lord Stanley, naming Sir Robert Napier, goes to Aden by this mail. If Sir R. Napier think proper, he can make a peremptory demand in anticipation of the letter, and deliver the letter itself in such manner and at such time as he may deem right. The tenor of the letter from Lord Stanley is that, as remonstrances have failed, the matter has been placed in the hands of Sir Robert Napier. Copy will be sent to you by post."

2. Since this telegram and the letter referred to were despatched, Her Majesty's Government, having had under their further consideration the present position of affairs in Abyssinia, have deemed it expedient to substitute for the letter to King Theodorus, sent to Aden by the mail of the 10th instant, another letter, copy of which is now enclosed, together with the instructions sent with it to the Political Resident at Aden. Enclosure in No. 408. No. 409.

3. By the mail of the 26th instant, if possible, instructions from Her Majesty's Government to Sir Robert Napier will be forwarded to Aden, under cover to the Political Resident, and by the mail of the 3d proximo, a copy of them will be enclosed to your Excellency's Government.

I have, &c.,

(for the Secretary of State for India,)

BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

No. 411.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India.

(No. 2, Secret.)

Sir,

India Office, 18th September 1867.

I forward to you herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a letter which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has addressed to King Theodore of Abyssinia, demanding the release of the British prisoners in his hands, together with a despatch to the Political Resident at Aden, instructing him to forward the letter to Massowah, to be conveyed thence to its destination. Enclosure in No. 408. No. 409.

I have, &c.,

(for the Secretary of State for India,)

BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

No. 412.

Major CHAMPAIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

5, John Street, Adelphi, 19th September 1867.

In reply to the letter from the Military Secretary, enclosing a telegram from Simla calling for ten thousand insulators for flying lines in Abyssinia, I have the honour most respectfully to observe that, in carrying out the proposals contained in my Report of the 3d instant, which received the sanction of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, I have made complete arrangements for a telegraph train to work over a distance of 450 miles. No. 409. No. 190.

Two Officers, and a detachment of Royal Engineers have been applied for from Chatham; and Lieutenant St. John, R.E., in charge of the instruments, wire, insulators,

and all the necessary appurtenances, will be ready to leave for Aden or elsewhere early in October.

My report showed that men and stores would be wanted from India. If Lieutenant St. John's services be retained, as will, I presume, be the case, the staff to be sent from India will be 1 Engineer Officer, 12 European or Eurasian signallers, and 4 European Non-commissioned Officers, who could be selected on the spot from any of the regiments employed. The stores will be only ten thousand strong 18-feet bamboos, one large double-poled and three single-poled office tents, in addition to the tents required for the personal accommodation of the Engineer detachment (4 Officers and 35 men) and of the 12 signallers.

As the telegram under reply specifies the number of insulators called for, I think it right to remark that I have only ordered four thousand. There is no doubt that the signalling apparatus to be employed will work with ease many hundred miles, through a copper wire (as provided) suspended, without insulators, on bamboos over a tolerably dry country. The 4,000 insulators are for use in thickly wooded or damp districts, or where the living trees are employed as supports. I have no hesitation in saying that more will not be required, unless operations be continued during the rainy season, which begins in May.

Should the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, however, deem it advisable to comply fully with the requisition, I could undertake that six thousand additional insulators should follow the original train, and they might then remain in store at the port of debarkation until wanted.

I have, &c.,

JOHN U. CHAMPAIN, Major,
Royal Engineers.

No. 413.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 19th September 1867.

No. 383.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that instructions have been given for the issue, as soon as possible, to the India Store Department, of 400 pairs of leggings, for the use of the troops proceeding to Abyssinia, and repayment will be required for the same in the usual manner.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 414.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 19th September 1867.

I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, in answer to your letter of the 16th instant, that first-class passage to Bombay for Veterinary Surgeon Lamb, has been ordered on board the contract mail steam packet which will leave Marseilles on the 3d October, in lieu of that which will leave Southampton on the 27th instant.

I have, &c.,

W. R. MENDS.

No. 415.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 19th September 1867.

No. 331.

No. 364.

With reference to your letter of the 13th instant, and to my reply of the 14th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you that, in consequence of the Otago pattern of pack-saddles having been adopted for the Abyssinian

expedition, the covers and packing cases made for the service pattern originally ordered remain on hand at Woolwich, and to suggest that these covers and packing cases should be sent to the India Store Department.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 416.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 19th, 1867.
I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the No. 404. 18th instant, and to state to you in reply that his Lordship has this day instructed the Acting British Consul-General in Egypt by telegraph to do all he can to facilitate the No. 419. early arrival at Massowah of Dr. Krapf.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 417.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 19th, 1867.
I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you the accompanying letter from a Mr. Apostolides, recommending that a mission should be sent to Abyssinia under the auspices of the Greek and Coptic Patriarchs.

Mr. Apostolides has been informed that his letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 418.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 19, 1867.
I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the No. 399. 18th instant, and to inform you, in reply, that his Lordship has this day instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid by telegraph to request the Spanish Government to allow mule transports calling at Alicante and Valencia, to be treated as military shipping.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 419.

Telegram from the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Foreign Office, September 19, 1867.

Do all you can to facilitate early arrival at Massowah of Dr. Krapf, who is about to proceed thither to join Abyssinian expedition as interpreter.

No. 420.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Mr. BRIDGTOWER.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 19, 1867.
I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the No. 397. 13th instant, and to inform you in reply that Her Majesty's Government have no intention of interfering with the succession to the Throne of Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 421.

Colonel WRAY to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

Woolwich, September 19th, 1867.

In my double capacity, as acting for Major-General Willoughby, C.B., and as a Member of the Ordnance Select Committee, I have endeavoured, to the best of my ability to carry out the principle, so strongly advocated by me, and, I believe, concurred in by the India Office, that everything connected with the equipment of the mountain batteries for Abyssinia should be of the best and lightest description compatible with efficiency.

The general service pack-saddle, as you are aware, has been condemned, and the Otago pattern, weighing 25 lbs. (stripped), unanimously adopted in its place.

This change so materially altered the condition of the 76 saddles building in the carriage department of the Royal Arsenal for the mountain train, and which weigh (stripped) 49½ lbs., that I at once turned my attention, with the assistance of Mr. Deputy Commissary Bailey, C.B. (specially appointed by the War Office to go into the matter), to the possibility of profiting by the advantages of this excellent saddle for the mountain equipment, as far as they could be attained.

To prevent any possibility of delay, I unhesitatingly consented (after ascertaining that the special saddle fitted) to its adoption for the 12 guns and 12 carriages, but strongly objected to the extension of the principle beyond 28 saddles, on the grounds that universality was gained at the expense of 20 lbs. additional weight imposed on 48 mules, required solely for carrying ammunition, rockets, and forges (total, 960 lbs. on the whole train), and which was quite unnecessary, as, by a few trifling additions to the boxes in the way of rings, they could be carried as well on the ordinary Otago saddles, unaltered in any way, and still admit of the boxes being opened on the animal's back.

The ammunition loads, I may observe, are already the heaviest in the battery, but upwards of 270 lbs.

The Ordnance Select Committee being of opinion that although very desirable that these loads should be lightened, time would not admit of the change, recorded their opinion to that effect.

In the course of a few hours the possibility of the change was made fully apparent, and the Committee have so far admitted it, and removed all doubts as to time, by recommending that the whole of the boxes shall be so altered.

But the manufacture of the heavy saddle for the ammunition loads continues; and it has been further recommended that the mountain train shall be so equipped and sent out.

I leave the matter for the consideration of Government, feeling confident that if it is fully inquired into, the expense of building unnecessary saddles (trifling though the amount may be), the accumulation of stores with the army which are not likely to be used, the increase of tonnage overland, and, above all, the over-weighting of our batteries for no reasonable purpose will be avoided.

I have, &c.,

E. WRAY, Colonel,
Royal Artillery,
Member of Ordnance Select Committee.

No. 422.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, September 19th, 1867.

With reference to recent correspondence upon the subject of the pattern of pack-saddles to be provided for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward for the consideration of Sir J. Pakington, copy of a letter from Colonel Wray, C.B., Member of the Ordnance Select Committee, who suggests, with reference to the saddle to be adopted for the mountain train, now being equipped at Woolwich, that the same (Otago) saddle, recently sanctioned, and now being made up for general employment in Abyssinia, should be also adopted in the mountain train equipment, with the exception of those required for the guns and carriages, 28 in number, for which he recommends that the saddle already under preparation may be retained.

2. Colonel Wray is an Officer of very considerable experience in field equipments of this nature, and it appears to Sir Stafford Northcote that he has shown good grounds, particularly in the lightness of the load, for adopting, with the above exception, the same saddle with the mountain train that has been, after careful inquiry and consideration, sanctioned for general use with the force; and he would suggest, therefore, that immediate orders be given to suspend the manufacture of the saddles now proposed beyond those required for the guns and carriages, and that such measures as Sir John Pakington may deem necessary be at once taken for obtaining a further and careful consideration of the question of the most suitable saddles for the remaining portion of the mountain train.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 423.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 19th, 1867.

Telegram about twin screw received. Price high. I can buy tugs here, and barges No. 348. and lighters from Egypt, more advantageously.

No. 424.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Political Resident at Aden,
September 19th, 1867.

The letter to King Theodore from Lord Stanley, sent by the mail of the 10th, has been cancelled, and should be returned to the India Office. A letter to be substituted for it was sent by the mail of the 18th, with instructions to you.

See No. 300
Enclosure i
No. 408, an
No. 409.

No. 425.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 19th, 1867.

The letter which was sent to King Theodore on the 10th of September has been cancelled, and another was sent on the 18th to Aden, with instructions to have it forwarded to him immediately. Do not let any delay take place in the preparations for the expedition.

See No. 300
Enclosure i
No. 408, an
409.

No. 426.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services,
Somerset House.

Sir,

India Office, 19th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that he has approved of an additional supply of ammunition of 500 rounds per gun having been ordered for the two batteries of 7-pounder mountain guns to be used in Abyssinia, and has requested that it may be ready for embarkation on the troop ship which will sail on the 9th of October.

No. 402.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 427.

Mr. PROSSER to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

5, Whitehall, September 19th, 1867.

The many contradictory reports in the daily press, with reference to the difficulties to be encountered in the proposed expedition to Abyssinia, induce me to lay before you the enclosed papers on the subject of my lime light, which I think will show the expediency of using it as a means of affording safety to our soldiers, and immunity whilst harassing the enemy at night and defeating any projects of nocturnal attacks.

The many advantages possessed by this invention, in such an expedition, will be found fully developed in the enclosed papers, those passages bearing more particularly upon the question being marked for easier reference (specially to that marked A.), and I have the honour to request that you will favour me with an interview in order to fully develop those advantages.

I have, &c.,

W. PROSSER.

P.S.—The whole of the apparatus is now ready, it having been sent out to the Confederate States by order of Mr. Mason, after full and satisfactory experiments, and returned on the termination of the war.

No. 428.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 20th September 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 7th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that, in addition to the subaltern and 25 men of the Royal Engineers for whose services application was therein made with regard to the Abyssinian expedition, His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief will be good enough to direct Colonel Simmons to hold in readiness for foreign service a subaltern and 10 men of the same regiment, who have been trained to the working of the portable signals and lamps required for the field telegraph train.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 429.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 20th September 1867.

With reference to your letters of the 7th and 20th instant, relative to a telegraphic establishment to be attached to the Abyssinian force in accordance with the suggestions made by Major Champain, Royal Engineers, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that His Royal Highness has caused the necessary instructions to be issued with regard to the selection of Officers and men, and the supply of stores, for the service in question.

I have, &c.,

W. F. FORSTER.

No. 430.

The Rev. Dr. KRAFF to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Most honoured Sir,

Kornthal, near Stuttgart, 20th September 1867.

I beg leave to inform you that I have received your letter dated 17th inst. Will you have the kindness to communicate to Sir Stafford Northcote that his reply has given me, in every point, the fullest satisfaction, excepting the one point which desires me "to abstain from any missionary enterprise, &c., whilst attached to the " expedition." As this point seems to demand from me a total denial and suppression

No. 258.

Nos. 258 and
428.

No. 390.

of my missionary character, candour and due regard to Her Majesty's Government require alike that I should explain myself clearly on this subject.

In the first instance, I do fully acknowledge the correctness of Sir Stafford Northcote's view, by which he, no doubt, wishes strongly to intimate that everything must strictly be avoided that might prejudice the native mind against the foreigners, and endanger seriously the object of the expedition. And, indeed, religious matters, especially vehement controversies, have often been attended by sad results, when they were conducted in a passionate temper and principally for the purpose of showing one's superiority over the antagonist.

But, whilst I entirely disapprove of storming and noisy preaching, which frequently characterizes young missionaries from good intentions, I am adverse to the other extremity, viz., to absolute silence and indifference, which must render the character of a missionary abroad, as well as of a clergyman at home, very dubious and objectionable, as if he felt ashamed of his spiritual vocation. According to my long experience, there are cases on which not only missionaries or clergymen, but even laymen, are in conscience bound to speak out their views and convictions of religious matters, in whatever external position they may be. I have often observed that African Chiefs as well as private persons, though uncalled and not occasioned by myself, commenced of their own accord a religious discussion, not from a spirit of controversy, but from a desire of improving their knowledge of the manners and ways of thinking on the part of the Europeans. What should I do? If I refused touching upon the proposed subject, I was aware of the natives suspecting me of atheism, and that I, as well as my countrymen, must be men destitute of all religion, and that the natives thought they were right in detesting such a godless foreigner. When I complied with their request, I was sure, in eight cases out of ten, to be respected and to win their affection, if I simply, clearly, dispassionately, and logically met the case. When Captain Owen surveyed the East African waters, one of his officers was requested by Said-Said, the ruler of Zanzibar, to explain to him several matters disputed between the Christians and Mahamedans. The officer complied with the request, and since that time His Highness obtained a better opinion of the Christians, and he often highly expressed his regard to that officer. I myself happened to witness a similar case, when I visited, in 1842, Imam Liban, a strictly Mahamedan ruler of Worra Himano, in whose territory the fortress of Magdala is situated. Soon after my arrival at Tanta (his residence, only three leagues distant from Magdala), he, and his grandees surrounding him, entered into a religious conversation, uncalled for by myself. He brought forth an Amharic New Testament, which one of his soldiers had captured on plundering a Christian village in Godjam. I was requested to read and explain what the Chief did not understand. I did it as simply and clearly as I could, and without the least regard to controversy, or with a view of making him a convert. The Chief was so pleased, that he afterwards called on me in my tent, sent me a large supply of provisions, and offered to me, when in the course of my journey to Gondar rebels stopped my further advance, an asylum in his fortresses of Hoaito or Magdala, as I pleased. He told me that hitherto he had considered the Europeans to be atheists, but now he had found it quite otherwise, and that they must be better Christians than the Abyssinians.

Besides, I may now and then be asked for a copy of Scriptures. Should I refuse? On the same journey, I had visited the Queen Dowager of Shoa. On delivering her my presents, and among these an entire Amharic Bible, she said, the latter present was of the greatest value to her; she had money and other property enough, but that she had never seen an entire Bible in print. Such like people, having conceived an affection for the foreigner, will give him every information, on which he can rely, whereas, if they suspect him of atheism or religious indifference, they keep aloof from him hereafter. Thus, from many experiences, I have learned to tread upon the golden middle path, avoiding all over-zealousness as well as indifference, and discerning under the circumstances whether total silence or some few words are requisite; I would, therefore, have to put a coercion upon my conscience, if I would promise to be silent under all circumstances whilst connected with the expedition. I think Sir Stafford's mind will be fully satisfied and tranquillized, if I say that, as a leading rule of conduct, I must consider the object of the expedition to be the primary point, to which every other private concern must bend; but that, on the other hand, I must not be expected to suppress my individual feeling, if a case should appear in practice where I should have any occasion, or be requested, to enter upon a religious discussion. Should Sir Stafford Northcote's remark imply that, under *all* circumstances, I must abstain from religious discussion carried on in the most friendly and reconciling manner, or giving a book if required, especially in the way of a present (when no other present might be valued

so much), I say, if this is meant by Sir Stafford Northcote, I am sorry I must decline my accompanying the expedition. But I am far from attributing this meaning to his remark.

Besides, the objects of the expedition will require so much the time and energies of the dragoman, that he will have no, or but very little, leisure for other matters than those for which he is engaged. It is now not the time for spiritual instruction or preaching, when the roaring of the cannons' mouth will likely have to speak in vindication of Her Majesty's honour and for the speedy rescue of her unfortunate subjects. Sir Stafford Northcote may rest assured that I shall in practice well distinguish time and place for religious matters, though I wish to have fully reserved to me the principle of individual action according to the circumstances, which will not only be not prejudicial to my main duty, but rather be promotive of it.

I would be highly obliged to you if you would soon submit my views to Sir Stafford Northcote, and let me know whether he can allow me, under such views, to accompany the expedition. In the affirmative case, I will immediately prepare my equipment for the journey, and endeavour to be at Suez towards the end of October, so as to be at Massowah about the 8th or 10th November, if the steamer takes me up at Suez in time.

With the highest esteem,

I am, &c.,
L. KRAPP.

No. 431.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of the Admiralty, Military Secretary, Horse Guards, and Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 20th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward for the information of the _____, a copy of a

No. 376.

Despatch which has been addressed to the Government of Bombay, respecting the expedition to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 432.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Major J. U. CHAMPAIN, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 20th September 1867.

No. 190.

With reference to your letter of the 3d instant, in which you speak of one mule carrying the weight of two drums of Hooper's India-rubber core, the weight of each "not exceeding 140 lbs.," I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a telegram has been received from Bombay, stating that any stores likely to be carried on pack animals should be packed in boxes of not more than 80 lbs. weight.

No. 386.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 433.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 20th September 1867.

No. 417.

With reference to your letter of the 19th instant, with enclosure from Mr. Apostolides, I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to transmit to you, for the information of Lord Stanley, copy of the reply which has been addressed to that gentleman, declining the offer of his services.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 434.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, 20th September 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Sir Stafford Northcote, the accompanying letters which have been received through Her Majesty's Minister at Florence, from Major de Fournoux and Lieutenant Luciani, asking permission to join the expedition to Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

No. 435.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 20th September 1867.

In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, forwarding a Despatch in quadruplicate from Lord Stanley to King Theodore, in substitution for that transmitted to this Office on the 9th instant,* I am to acquaint you that instructions (copy of which is enclosed) have been sent to the Political Resident at Aden, to take measures for the safe delivery of the letters in question, and to return to England, by the first opportunity, the previous letter to the King of Abyssinia, which is to be considered cancelled.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 436.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 20th September 1867.

With reference to your letter of 31st August, having reference to the appointment of certain medical officers to the three hospital ships fitting out for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that instructions be given to the Senior Medical Officer to report himself to the Brigadier Commanding at Aden immediately upon arrival, and that he may be informed that the whole of the medical officers serving on board the ships in question will be brought upon the establishment of the Bombay Presidency from the date of their arrival at Aden.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 437.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 20, 1867.

The officer charged with the superintendence of the purchase of mules for the expedition to Abyssinia has represented to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War that it would much facilitate proceedings at Alicante and Valencia if the Spanish Government would consent to allow mule transports calling at those ports to be treated as military shipping, and exempted as such from port dues and fees. See No. 399.

I have accordingly to instruct you to request the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs to be good enough to cause instructions to that effect to be sent to the authorities at the above-named ports.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 438.

The Acting-Consul General at Constantinople to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received September 20.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, September 11, 1867.

No. 112.
See No. 168.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Murray's despatch of the 29th ultimo, and of Mr. Hammond's despatch of the 2nd instant, conveying to me your Lordship's instructions with reference to the purchase in this country by Her Majesty's Government of a quantity of mules for the use of Her Majesty's Indian army; and I beg to state that I have given due publicity to the subject, in order that on the arrival of the officers charged with the selection and purchase of the animals no time may be lost.

The dearth of animals, especially mules, caused by the Crimean War, is still felt in this neighbourhood, and their supply is small. It will, therefore, be necessary to procure them from more distant provinces; and I have taken measures to the effect that when the officers charged to buy the mules arrive here they may find people ready to enter into agreements to deliver animals from those provinces.

Pack-horses are more abundant; and, in the event of this description of animal being required, there would be no difficulty in obtaining them to a considerable number, and at moderate prices. I should say at a rate of not more than 11% to 12% each. I doubt good mules being procurable under 35% to 40% each.

I have, &c.,
FREDK. GUARRACINO.

No. 439.

The Consul at Cadiz to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received September 20.)

My Lord,

Cadiz, September 15, 1867.

I have the honour to enclose herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch which I addressed yesterday to his Excellency the Governor of Gibraltar.

In the event of his Excellency finding that the mule owners in Southern Andalusia and Granada do not readily respond to the offers made to purchase mules under certain conditions, deliverable at the lines near Gibraltar, I beg leave to state to your Lordship that contracts might be easily made here for the purchase of stout pack-mules, serviceable for hill work, to be delivered here or at Seville or Gibraltar, as agreed upon. One or two thousand mules, or even more, could be procured in a fortnight without much difficulty.

Many persons conversant with such matters would approve of the standard of height being lowered, because it is the case that a stout hardy Spanish mule, perfectly strong enough to carry heavy weights over mountains, is often shorter in the legs than those of the height demanded in the advertisement, which height is more that of the cart-mules in Andalusia.

I have, &c.,
A. GRAHAM DUNLOP.

Enclosure in No. 439.

The Consul at Cadiz to the Governor of Gibraltar.

Sir,

Cadiz, September 14, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to afford your Excellency (or the officers who may be sent here) every aid in my power in the purchase of mules for the Indian army.

I have already had some private communications with agents who generally accomplish such purchases in this district, and have caused to be published and distributed the printed notices forwarded from Gibraltar, nor do I anticipate serious difficulty in procuring the quantity required.

But should your Excellency find that the owners of mules in Spain are unwilling to risk the sending of them so far as Gibraltar on the chance of their being selected there for purchase, I would venture

to recommend that the owners of the large mule-breeding farms in Estremadura and the north of Andalusia should be at once applied to, because purchases will be accomplished on favourable terms just at present, and previous to the mule fairs, which take place towards the end of the month.

I fear that the Spanish mule-dealer will hesitate sending his cattle so far as to Gibraltar¹ on the mere chance of purchase, although 144 dollars is a very fair price for stout pack-mules.

I have, &c.,

A. GRAHAM DUNLOP.

No. 440.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 20, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the information of Secretary Sir J. Pakington, the accompanying copies of despatches which have been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz and the Acting Consul-General at Constantinople, upon the subject of the purchase of mules for the expedition to Abyssinia. Nos. 438 and 439.

I am, &c.,

E. HAMMOND.

No. 441.

Telegram from the Consul at Brindisi to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Brindisi, September 20, 1867.

Commissary Baynes is here purchasing mules for Abyssinia. He has presented Mr. Murray's circular of 29th ultimo to me, but as he has non-regular letters of credit, merchants will not cash his bills on Treasury for large amount, probably 20,000*l.*, without my guarantee. May I give it? No. 113.

No. 442.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 20th September 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 18th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will state to Sir Stafford Northcote that it is presumed that the instructions from the Bombay Government to their Agent in Egypt to leave the "purchase" of mules in the hands of Colonel Kennedy, had reference as well to the entire management of the mule depôts in Egypt, from the reception of the mules at Alexandria till their delivery to the Agents of the Indian Government at Suez. No. 396.

Should Sir Stafford Northcote consider this to be the meaning and intention of the telegram, Sir John Pakington proposes to inform Colonel Kennedy accordingly.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 443.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, September 20th, 1867.

In reply to
No. 388.

The hammocks will be sent by the "Serapis" on the 9th of October.

No. 444.

The Governor General of India in Council to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received September 20th, 1867.)

Military, No. 238.

Sir,

Simla, August 17th, 1867.

No. 4.

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Despatch, No. 201, dated 17th July 1867, enclosing copy of correspondence relative to the present state of affairs in Abyssinia, and asking our opinion on various points, should it be determined to send an expedition to that country.

2. A copy of notes written by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, and by Major-General the Honourable Sir H. M. Durand, on the subject of an expedition to Abyssinia, which were sent demi-officially at the time they were written, is now forwarded in an official form.

3. We are inclined to think that a force such as Sir H. Durand has indicated would probably suffice, and we could readily furnish our quota of it from Bengal if necessary.

No. 5.

4. With regard to the queries put in your Despatch to the Bombay Government, No. 86, dated 17th July 1867, we would remark that No. 1 has been answered by the preceding paragraph, and that Nos. 2 to 6 can only be satisfactorily replied to by that Government in communication with Lieutenant-Colonel Mercwether, the Political Agent at Aden; but we have understood this Officer is of opinion that cattle for transport is procurable in sufficient abundance in Egypt and on the coasts of Arabia and Africa, but that everything else except fuel, water, and forage must be sent from India.

5. Bearing in mind the disturbed state of the interior of Africa, in which the operations will take place, the absence of any strong Government, and the circumstance that the ruling powers are broken up into factions struggling against each other, and that the authority of Theodorus is said to have been greatly broken, we consider that there is every prospect of success, if the expedition be well commanded, with a good political staff subordinate to the Commander, to obtain information, communicate with the Chiefs and people, and arrange terms with some of the leading men amongst them.

6. It is to be borne in mind that the distance over which the army will have to move does not apparently exceed 300 miles, and that we invade the country, not to occupy it, but for a special purpose, which being accomplished we shall leave the country.

7. As regards question No. 7, we understand that Officers have already been sent from Bombay to collect information, and to purchase carriage cattle, a step which was, no doubt, of primary importance.

8. In conclusion, we would recommend that there should be no division of military and political authority; but that with regard to the experience of foreign expeditions directed from India, both duties should be absolutely combined in one Officer, the Military commander of the expedition.

9. With reference to what is proposed in Sir Edward Lugard's letter of the 2d July, with respect to the Rev. Percy Badger, we would urge that, if it is decided to make use of the special qualifications of this gentleman, it would be expedient that he should be attached, unofficially, or as an interpreter, to the military commander, as ultimately came about in the Persian expedition, in which it is understood he afforded valuable assistance to Sir James Outram.

10. Copy of a telegram in the Military Department to your address, dated 15th August 1867, is attached to this Despatch, and a telegram has been sent in the Financial Department regarding the provision of funds for the cost of the expedition, which will necessarily be expensive.

We have, &c.,

J. LAWRENCE.
W. R. MANSFIELD.
H. S. MAINE.
G. N. TAYLOR.
W. N. MASSEY.
H. M. DURAND.
G. U. YULE.

See page
179 of Blue
Book of
1867.

No. 37.
No. 23.

Enclosure 1 in No. 444.

Minute by Major-General Sir Henry Durand.

June 10, 1867.

Blue Book of
1867, page
122.

In the absence of everything approaching to reliable information, I should not have hazarded any remarks at all on Major-General Coghlan's memorandum, had it not been for the request of his Excellency the Governor-General. In deference to the Viceroy's wish, but with a painful sense of the want of all data on which to proceed, I venture to offer the following observations.

It is related by historians that the Negáshi of Abyssinia invaded Yemen in the year A.D. 525 with 60,000 men, conquered the province, and held it until A.D. 575, that is for half a century.

In A.D. 525 the conquering army crossed from the Abyssinia coast, apparently from the Annesley or Massowah harbours, and landed at Ghalifica on the Arab coast. For 50 years they maintained their conquest, and reinforcements had, therefore, continually to be provided from Abyssinia. This single fact proves that the communication from the plateau of Abyssinia to the seaboard by the routes leading on the harbours of the coast cannot be insuperably difficult for the march of considerable bodies of men. If in A.D. 525 an Abyssinian monarch could march down 60,000 men, and cross them over to the Arab coast, to avenge the persecution the Christians had suffered, I cannot deem the features of the country so altered in the present day that, with our command of means, it should be a matter of insurmountable difficulty to push a well and suitably equipped force into Abyssinia.

At the same time, I am bound to say, after a careful perusal of Major-General Coghlan's scheme for an Abyssinian expeditionary force, that it affords no information upon points absolutely essential to be known in the event of military operations being undertaken. It relies, in fact, on a series of preliminary inquiries to be made by a staff of Officers to be deputed to Massowah for the purpose of collecting the very information which, considering our now long possession of Aden, ought to have been available, and in the possession of the Political Agent at Aden. For instance, in 1854 there was an expedition to Berbera under Burton, Herne, Strogan, and Speke, and after journeys by Burton and Speke, the party met in April 1855, at Berbera, and though the final result of the expedition was unfortunate, yet a good deal of information must have been collected as to the resources of the Somali country in cattle, sheep, ponies, and other kinds of produce. Moreover, subsequently, since 1856, our relations with the Somali coast have been so continuous at Aden that some positive knowledge of the resources of the Somali coast, and that trending south to Zanzibar, ought to be known. North of Massowah also, the resources of the Nubian coast should by this time have been ascertained, and it ought not to be absolutely problematical whether we can rely or not upon the tracts above adverted to for a supply of slaughter cattle and sheep, and also of baggage animals.

Major-General Coghlan's memorandum concludes with the hope that the preliminary arrangements for the acquisition of information may, on coming to the knowledge of King Theodorus, induce him, through fear of impending consequences, to liberate the captives unconditionally, and to sue for an amnesty. This, I would fain hope, may by good fortune happen, but it is a very dubious supposition, especially if our procedure be such as to imply an alliance, overt or concealed with the Turko-Egyptian power.

By the latest reports from the captives in Abyssinia we know that the available force now under the direct control of Theodorus is much reduced, and that it was in course of daily rapid diminution. At the same time there is a general concurrence, on the part of those conversant with the existing state of feeling in Abyssinia, that the hatred to the Turko-Egyptian rule is so great, and the national antipathy so engrained, that, whatever steps may be taken for releasing the captives and coercing Theodorus, we have been repeatedly warned against our operations assuming the semblance of alliance with Turko-Egyptian support or aid, for that such an impression might rally the Abyssinians to something like union, and could not fail greatly to strengthen Theodorus. It is impossible to judge how far this may be a correct representation of the national feeling in Abyssinia, but some incidental remarks by the eminent traveller Baker, who passed some time in an Abyssinian province before he started for the Albert Nyanza exploration, are a weighty confirmation from an independent source of this alleged virulent national feeling. As at present informed, therefore, it may be politic to avoid any line of procedure that might be construed to indicate an offensive coalition with Turko-Egyptian designs on Abyssinia.

In a rough way the Turk claims the coast as far as the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, but, unless I am misinformed, he holds nothing lower down than Massowah Island, which, according to Coghlan, we could not use without the permission of the Turkish Government. It would seem preferable, even at same disadvantage, to select a port such as Annesley Bay, where no such previous permission was necessary, and possible complications with the Turko-Egyptian Government were avoided.

As the old road to Tigré came to Annesley Bay, there can hardly be a doubt that it is a practicable line.

In a late Despatch Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether spoke much more favourably of the route from Amphilla than does Major-General Coghlan. It is, no doubt, a bad roadstead, and not comparable as a harbour with Annesley Bay, but it is nearer to Tigré. As a demonstration, as well as with a view to operations, it would be advisable to institute inquiries as to both routes.

The essential difference between such an expedition and that to the Persian Gulf under Sir J. Outram must not be lost sight of. The latter expedition had, as its first object, to strike a blow on the coast, and by the occupation of Bushire and the operations at the head of the Gulf, to threaten, though not to undertake, an advance from the coast on one or other line of operations. It was expected, as proved to be the case, that the Persian Government would be brought to reason by the occupation of Bushire and the operations at the head of the Gulf; and it was only in case of disappointment in this respect that more serious operations were contemplated. The case is very different with regard to an expedition into Abyssinia. The blow to be struck is not one on the coast, but involves a long and probably difficult march from the coast to the plateau of Abyssinia, as a preliminary to effective action against the Negáshi. *A sine quâ non*, therefore, is, that whatever force is thrown on shore from the ships, at the head of Annesley Bay, as at Amphilla, shall be so equipped with carriage

cattle for stores, camp equipage, baggage, spare ammunition, and ordnance park stores, besides sheep and cattle for slaughter, that a rapid advance from the coast may be feasible. There must also be the means from time to time of throwing forward additional supplies. Now, granting that no wheeled carriage except that of the guns is allowed, and that the arrangements are such that everything else for the army is carried on the backs of animals, such as camels, mules, ponies, bullocks, &c., such a mode of equipment, involving daily loading and unloading, necessitates not only a large number of animals, but also of men to take care of them; and all, man and beast, must be fed. The first consideration, therefore, must be the organization of ample means of transport, for nothing is either more useless or helpless than a body of troops thrown on shore without means of movement.

Where there are no data whatever as to the available supply of carriage cattle, and nothing is known of the routes, it would be expedient so to organize the force as to combine as far as possible a maximum of efficiency with a minimum of transport, for it is the means of transport that will probably be the difficulty throughout the operations.

A force composed as follows would answer the foregoing conditions from the moderate strength of Europeans proposed; but bearing in mind the wear and tear of a long advance over such a country as must be traversed, the column, a weak division, is of minimum strength in natives also.

Column to advance upon the coast from Tigré or the plateau of Abyssinia

1st Brigade.

- 1 European Regiment.
- 1 Sikh Pioneer Regiment.
- 1 Native Infantry Regiment.

2d Brigade.

- 1 European Regiment.
- 1 Sikh Infantry Regiment.
- 1 Native Infantry Regiment.

Artillery and Sappers.

- 1 Mountain Train Battery.
- 1 Field Battery (Armstrong guns).
- 2 Companies, Sappers (Native).

Cavalry.

- 2 Regiments Irregular Native Cavalry.

A small Ordnance Park.

„ Engineer „

Commissariat Park.

Reserve on the coast with transport in course of organization as rapidly as possible, in case of an advance being necessary in support of column:—

Reserve Brigade.

- 1 Regiment of European Infantry.
- 2 Regiments of Native Infantry.
- 1 Company of Sappers (Native).
- 1 Field Battery (Armstrong Guns).

In the event of the reserve being called up, which would probably be the case before the operations were concluded, Government must be prepared to supply its place by a reinforcement from India, or, better still, by one held in readiness at Aden of a like strength.

The 1st and 2d Brigades would be about	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000 men.
Artillery	-	-	-	-	-	-	300 „
Sappers	-	-	-	-	-	-	200 „
Cavalry	-	-	-	-	-	-	900 „
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,400 „

Reserve Brigade.

Infantry	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000 men.
Artillery	-	-	-	-	-	-	150 „
Sappers	-	-	-	-	-	-	100 „
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,250 „

Contingent on demand to supply reserve if called to the front, 2,250 men. The force to be embarked and landed on Abyssinian coast would be—

Column	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,400 men.
Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,250 „
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,650 „

To be held in readiness—

Brigade	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,250 men.
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Grand total - - 9,900 „

All the servants and camp followers from India landed in Africa should be well armed.

The Medical Department must be strong in Officers and stores. If Annesley Bay were the base of operations, it would be a wise precaution to have a hospital ship of good size there.

The Topographical and the Telegraph Departments should not be neglected on such an expedition. They are both essential.

Though the coercion of the Negáshi Theodorus and the liberation of the captives may be the sole aim of the expedition, it does not follow, unfortunately, that the force may be able to effect these objects, and return to the coast, without making some stay in Abyssinia. The column will advance under the disadvantage of knowing nothing of the country. Under such circumstances great rapidity of action cannot be expected, it must feel its way with more or less caution. A temporary occupation will probably prove inevitable, and that again will entail the necessity of endeavouring to restore order in the vicinity of the position occupied by the troops and on the line of communication with the coast. The mere advance to the plateau from the coast, though the route may present difficulties, will really be the easiest part of the business.

The temporary occupation and the ultimate withdrawal from the country to the coast will prove the more serious part of the enterprise. Much will depend on the judgment and tact with which the Abyssinians are conciliated and the good fortune that may attend the endeavour to restrict hostile operations to a conflict with Theodorus; but in the disturbed and wasted state of the country, it is impossible to foresee what complications may arise from the jealousy of factious Chiefs. It does not follow that, because they are in rebellion against Theodorus, they should side with us; on the contrary, they may resent the domination, temporary though it may avowedly be, of foreigners, and cause much trouble to the force. Once embroiled with any of the Chiefs and races now harrying Abyssinia, the withdrawal would be very difficult, if not dangerous. The fact is that it may turn out far easier to get into and occupy the country than to leave it at the moment we may desire to wash our hands of the affair.

Government must, therefore, be prepared to afford a somewhat protracted support, both naval and military to the force in Abyssinia. Although a division well commanded might, if fortune befriended the enterprise, effect what is desired, it might, on the other hand, be necessary not only to send up the reserve brigade, but even to follow that up by another, always at the same time maintaining a strong hold of the base of operations on the coast.

It is exactly that sort of expedition, the precise issue of which it is impossible to foretell, from the circumstance that, what with our own ignorance of the country and its difficulties, the anarchy which at present prevails there, and the reception of a foreign force being always an utter uncertainty among savages and semi-savages, the elements of trouble and discord are many, and those of order non-existent; alliances with petty Chiefs would be insecure, and as much a source of vigilance as their open hostility; whilst before our armed domination could retire it must, for its own welfare, as well as that of the people who came under its temporary protection, leave some organized power to take its place. Nothing would be more disagreeable, and hardly anything more discreditable, than a withdrawal which took the form of a retreat in the face of hostile masses. And this must almost inevitably be the case, unless, before the withdrawal from the country began, there had been a reconstruction of some sort of substantive power to be left behind us.

To return amid seething anarchy would be to invite pursuit and attack, if only for the sake of plunder, and we might suffer more on the withdrawal than during the advance.

H. M. DURAND.

Enclosure 2 in No. 444.

Minute by the Commander-in-Chief in India.

June 14, 1867.

I am sorry to say that I labour under the same difficulties as my honourable and gallant friend in meeting the wishes of His Excellency the Viceroy.

It appears to me, however, that, so far as recommendation and argument can be relied on, without available data of precise knowledge of a barbarous country against which a military expedition is to be directed, Sir Henry Durand has furnished the lines on which Her Majesty's Government will have to erect the details of such an undertaking as that suggested by Major-General Sir W. Coghlan.

I believe my honourable colleague to be correct in principle, in the warning he gives with respect to the first landing and advance of a column being the easiest part of the project, that we must be prepared for occupation perhaps of a prolonged character, and that we cannot return from such an expedition without loss of political honour, and, perhaps, of military reputation, if, after exacting reparation from King Theodorus, we should leave the country in a state of "seething anarchy." I am inclined to think that the most valuable portion of Sir William Coghlan's Memorandum is the latter part of it, which is styled "preliminary arrangements."

It is certainly necessary that we should have full reports on the coast, on the inland roads, on the temperature of the coast, on the first ranges of hills and the higher uplands, on the amount of carriage, slaughter cattle, and other supplies obtainable by purchase near the coast and in the nearest hills. We should also be told, on reliable authority, whether it be true or not that we may trust to the good offices of the "Shihos" or other tribes. This can only be done by establishing a Political Resident on the coast, with an effective staff. Her Majesty's Government can judge better than we if this should be at Massowah, Annesley Bay, or elsewhere.

It seems to me one that such an establishment, if dexterously directed, would not only give us all the information which we are now absolutely without, but that it might be made to act on the fears of Theodorus, and so achieve the object of ministers, without the cost and responsibility of an expedition, which can hardly fail to entail an occupation of two years' duration in the country of Theodorus, and perhaps ultimately commit us to an Abyssinian "Algeria," a project which Consul Cameron has always had in his mind, *vide* one of his early letters at the commencement of his captivity.

As King Theodorus may not impossibly have learnt the contents of that letter, he is not improbably impressed with the fear of such an ultimate result, if we should now make a demonstration of any kind. As said before, I should be much disposed to work on it politically, by the adoption of the measure suggested by Sir William Coghlan as the preliminary arrangement for a military expedition.

With regard to Sir Henry Durand's proposal, I fear we cannot rely on Aden as an intermediate base between Bombay and the Abyssinian coast. There is such scarcity of water in that place, and so little spare room, that I can hardly conceive 2,500 additional troops being put up there with their followers without very great inconvenience, loss of health, and perhaps sacrifice of life. I should rather advocate that, given a good harbour and a place well supplied with water on the Abyssinian coast, all reserves should be landed there at once. They would in all probability be fed there as easily as at Aden, and their presence would be at once felt in support of the expedition and the achievement of its object.

I think we may consider it certain that secular hatred and jealousy exist on the part of the Abyssinian towards the Turk. But I am not sure that this feeling may not be used advantageously by a Resident established on the coast, as I would propose for the attainment of our objects.

If Massowah be more convenient as a point of disembarkation and of future advance than any other, I should not consider anti-Turkish or Egyptian feelings in the Abyssinians to be a sufficient cause to prevent our adopting it. But if we must ask the permission of the Sultan's Government for such a purpose, we have probably a reason of a weighty character for acting on Sir Henry Durand's suggestion to leave Massowah alone, and seize some other point where permanently to establish ourselves on the coast during the expedition and occupation.

It seems to me important in the sense of our European policy that the affair should in no way be mixed up with Turkish territory and pretensions, or in point of action with the Turks.

I would venture to state that my opinion corresponds with that of Sir Henry Durand, in opposition to that of Sir William Coghlan, in considering the expedition, with its objects and difficulties, and with the distances to be traversed before the objective point is reached, to be a far more serious affair, and likely therefore to be much more costly than that conducted by the late Sir James Outram against the Persian coast.

W. R. MANSFIELD.

Enclosure 3 in No. 444.

Minute by Major-General Sir HENRY DURAND on the Routes in Abyssinia.

July 15, 1867.

Enclosure 1
in No. 444.

In a memorandum, dated 10th June last, drawn up at the request of the Viceroy, and having reference to the possible despatch of an expeditionary force to Abyssinia, I drew attention to the fact of the conquest of Yemen by the Abyssinian Negaschi in A.D. 525, and that for half a century that power maintained its hold over the Arab province. The purpose of this historical quotation was to point out that if 50,000 or 60,000 men could be marched from the highlands of Abyssinia to the coast, cross the Red Sea, invade Yemen, and hold it for 50 years, this could not be done without the road or roads from the plateau of Abyssinia to the coast being practicable. From Arab history, it appears that the elephant, an animal certainly not found in Arabia, was in use with the Abyssinian conquerors. This simple fact indicates the general practicability of the routes by which the Abyssinian forces descended and afterwards maintained their communications with the highlands.

Since writing the fore-mentioned memorandum, a reference to Portuguese history has recalled a fact which has a closer bearing on the practicability of an advance from the coast to the mountain camp and fastnesses of the Negaschi Theodorus. About 1541, Don Stephano de Gama, after his repulse at Suez, and sundry ravages on the Turkish possessions in the Red Sea, reached and occupied Massowah. From thence his squadron sailed to Zeila, which was taken, and became the starting point from whence Don Christopher de Gama, at the head of 400 Portuguese, well armed, disciplined after the European manner, and having with them a few field pieces, commenced his adventurous march, with a view to effect the relief of the Empress of Abyssinia, Cabelo Oanguel, who had been forced to take refuge in a fastness on the top of Mount Damo. This small Portuguese force was considerably augmented by a number of young gentlemen from the Viceroy's fleet, who were permitted to join the expedition as volunteers. Their number, however, is not stated. With this force Christopher de Gama advanced apparently by the direct route towards Lake Tyana or Dembra, through the Dewaro country, at the city of which, Dewaroa, the Empress met him; where this place Dewaroa may have been is not precisely stated, but Christopher de Gama had proceeded beyond it eight days' journey, through a very rough and rocky territory, and three days over a fine spacious plain of a more fertile character, when the Moorish King of Adel, who had spread his conquests from Zeila and Berbera to the foot of the Abyssinian highlands, attacked Christopher de Gama. In two severe actions the Portuguese Commander defeated his opponent; but in a third, after his enemy had received strong Turkish reinforcements, Christopher de Gama was defeated, in part owing to his own rashness. Though beaten in this fight, the residue of the Portuguese troops afterwards did good service in Abyssinia, though they had lost De Gama.

I have noted these circumstances because the King of Adel or Zeila was not a despicable foe; the reinforcements which enabled him to fight his third and successful action are represented to have been 600 Turks and 200 Moors on horseback, a thousand arquebussiers, and 10 pieces of field artillery.

We know that the calibre of the field guns used by the Portuguese and the Adel King were small, probably not exceeding two or three pounders, but then at that period the carriages were clumsy and the facility of moving artillery far less than in the present day. For instance, the 9-pounder Armstrong adapted for colonial service is probably far easier of draft than were these Portuguese and Moorish field guns of 1541-42, yet history shows that these were marched from considerable distances and in different directions without any insuperable difficulty, and played a prominent part in the three sharp actions fought by Christopher de Gama. The fair deduction is, that the country, rough and

difficult though it may be, is not at all impracticable for light field guns. Of course, for mountain train guns the country must be perfectly practicable.

Another conclusion is, that the country is not impracticable for cavalry, otherwise the Adel King would not always have had a considerable part of his force of that arm.

It is to be regretted that the exploring expedition under Lieutenant Burton to the Somali country had so disastrous a termination in 1855, and that its purpose being the exploration of the country between Berbera and Zanzibar very little information was collected calculated to throw any light on the route by which Christopher de Gama advanced to the neighbourhood of Lake Dembra; but the enterprise which he, with a small body of disciplined troops, did not shrink from boldly carrying out in 1541-42, can hardly be impossible to a well equipped British force in 1867.

The invasion of Yemen naturally turned attention to the routes leading from the highlands of Abyssinia to the ports from which the Abyssinian forces embarked for the opposite coast. But attention to the remarkable expedition of the Portuguese in 1541-42 renders it expedient, should a force have to be sent, that very careful inquiries be made as to the route from the head of the Gulf of Tejarrah straight on Magdala and Debra Tabor, for, as a rule, what has been done before can be done again, unless, as compared with the Portuguese of 1541, the British power of 1867 is less enterprising. My object is to qualify what my previous memorandum might be regarded as conveying, viz., a decided preference for the routes from Annesley or Amphilla Bay, leading into the Tigre Province. The presumption is, of course, in favour of routes by which an army of 50 or 60,000 was poured down upon the coast, or is supposed to have descended, but our information is so vague as to these routes, that it will not be wise to neglect so positive a fact as the march of the 400 Portuguese in 1541-42 by the direct route from Zeila, and the feasibility of that route should be carefully ascertained.

It must be remembered that the connexion between Abyssinia and the Portuguese at Goa had for some time preceded this expedition, and that, from the time of Albuquerque (1505) there had been a frequent passage to and fro of emissaries between Goa and the Abyssinian Court; when, therefore, the expedition from Zeila was determined upon, the Portuguese were, no doubt, in possession of pretty good information as to the most practicable routes; and as John III. had himself ordered the Viceroy of Goa to furnish 450 musqueteers from India, when sending Bermudez on his mission, the expedition was not hurriedly extemporized, but very deliberately pre-arranged, and that, too, whilst Bermudez, who knew Abyssinia well from long previous residence, was at Lisbon. It can therefore hardly have been chance that led Bermudez, when with the Viceroy at Massowah, to prefer an advance from Zeila. There must have been very forcible reasons for this preference. Possibly some of the old writers who have dwelt upon Don Christopher's gallant enterprise would, if searched, afford an insight how far it was a consideration of the practicability of the route, or of political circumstances, which led Stephen de Gama, when master of the choice, and with Bermudez at his side, to weigh from Massowah and land the force at Zeila, but no books that I can here command throw any light on this point. The fact renders advisable a careful collection of information on the present state of the route from the head of the Gulf of Tejarrah.

Considering that annually some 20,000 people assemble at Berbera, from all quarters of the mainland, and again disperse and return, and all this without organized pre-arrangement, there must be cattle, and provision, and water on the lines of road conveying on Berbera.

The Portuguese, after losing their leader, did admirable service in Abyssinia, were much dreaded, and improved the Abyssinian troops in the art of war. All this they undertook in support of a Jesuit policy, and the desire to subject to the Church of Rome the Abyssinian Christian Church. Our Government in England has to consider whether the manner in which its patient remonstrances and Her Majesty's letters have been received and treated by King Theodorus, and the outrages inflicted on our Envoy and the Consul, and British subjects with them, call for a defence of the honour and credit of the nation; but if Her Majesty's Government deem that a sufficiently low note of humiliation has been sounded, whatever the route by which Her Majesty's forces had to move, I hardly think they will, in the issue, show themselves a degenerate race to the brave 400 men under Christopher de Gama, for they will have a more honourable cause of war than had the Portuguese, and every motive that is likely to arouse the spirit and endurance of a British force to face and surmount the difficulties of such an expedition.

The real difficulty, an honourable withdrawal from the country of Abyssinia, I have touched upon fully in my previous memorandum.

H. M. DURAND.

Enclosure 4 in No. 444.

Minute by Major-General Sir H. M. DURAND, August 18th, 1867.

Since my note of the 15th July 1867 was written, I have received from Calcutta several works which seem to establish the fact that the march of the 400 Portuguese under Christopher de Gama was from Arkiko, at the head of the Bay of Massowah, and not from Zeila or Tajourah. In Purchus's "Pilgrims," Part II., there is a translation of the report of the Patriarch Don John Bermudez to John the Third of Portugal of what happened to Don Christopher and his party. He describes the surprise of Arkiko after the Viceroy's return from Suez; the selection of the Commander, Don Christopher; the departure of the Viceroy and his fleet, after receiving the blessing of Bermudez, who says of himself and his small force that, after the fleet went to sea, "we remained on land very solitary, and beginning to travell within three dayes we came to Debarna." Bruce, in his second volume, confirms this, and it seems pretty clear that it was from Arkiko that their advance was made, not from Zeila through Dewaro. Some similarity between Debarna* and Dewaro may have led to the error, as also some uncertainty as to the

Enclosure 3
in No. 444.

* Also spelt Debarwo.

precise date of the attack of the Portuguese on Zeyla; and, the translations not being very exact, writers have confused events. Although it does not affect the general argument in my note of the 15th July last, I think it right to correct the error into which I was led, as I entertain no doubt, on Bermudez's own authority, that Arkiko was the Portuguese starting point.

This makes no difference as to the expediency of obtaining information of a reliable kind as to the route from Tajourah, nor any as to the practicability of the country for military operations, and the movement of artillery. The Portuguese pieces did good service, though the carriages made up in the country had for tires old broken-up fire-arm barrels, no iron being obtainable with which to tire the wheels.

As pointed out by Salt, there is great difficulty in recognizing the old names employed by the Portuguese, so that to trace their routes is not always easy. Still, even with only such works as I have been able to obtain from Calcutta, there appears fuller information as to Abyssinia than we had respecting Afghanistan when the first advance was made through the Bolan Pass upon Candahar and Cabul; and I deem it probable that in England, where there must in our public libraries be copies of the original works of Tellez, Ludolph, Aharez, Bermudez, Lobo, and many others, there must exist far greater facilities for sifting out useful information than is afforded by the means available in this country. Salt points out that, on comparing Mr. Coffin's route from Amphilla Bay to Chelicut with that of Jerome Lobo's two centuries previous, there was little difference, except in the status of the tribes between the coast and the Pass of Senafé. Whatever the political changes of a country, its physical features, those which affect military lines of operation, remain in a mountainous country permanent; and the whole of Abyssinia was so repeatedly traversed by the Portuguese Jesuits, who long resided in and wrote of that country, that, unless their letters and descriptions are more inexact than was usual with that learned and well trained society, a little labour devoted to a scrutiny of their works, and a judicious compilation of particulars bearing on the nature of the main routes, both from the coast and also in the interior of the Amhara and Tigré provinces could not fail to be useful. It ought to be easily and rapidly executed in England by any officer of experience, master of the Portuguese tongue and conversant with Jesuit Latin, and having the resources of the British Museum library at his disposal.

H. M. DURAND.

No. 445.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received September 20th, 1867.)

Military, No. 61.

Right Honourable Sir,

Bombay Castle, 24th August 1867.

We have the honour to forward, for immediate compliance, the accompanying special indent, in duplicate, for coal required in connexion with the expedition to Abyssinia, and to request that 10,000 tons of the steam coal may be sent to Aden and 10,000 to Bombay.

No. 71.

The present demand is the same as that made by his Excellency the Governor's telegram of 23d instant.

We have, &c.,

W. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

R. NAPIER.

B. H. ELLIS.

No. 446.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received September 20th, 1867.)

Military, No. 62.

Right Honourable Sir,

Bombay Castle, 24th August 1867.

We have the honour to forward, for immediate compliance, the accompanying indent for 1,400,000 rounds of Enfield rifle ammunition required for the use of the expedition to Abyssinia, and to request that the supply may be sent direct to Aden overland.

We have, &c.,

W. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

R. NAPIER.

B. H. ELLIS.

No. 447.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India in Council.
(Received September 20th, 1867.)

Military, No. 63.

Right Honourable Sir,

Poona, 24th August 1867.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 86, dated 17th July last, on the subject of the needful measures in case of a military force being sent to effect the release of the British subjects now prisoners in Abyssinia. No. 5.

2. Your first question is, what amount of force is considered needful? what should it consist of? and by whom should it be commanded?

3. It was at first considered that a force of about ten thousand men might be required, as, although any opposition in force was not probable, yet the country, being entirely unknown, and the point to be reached being between three hundred and four hundred miles distant inland, it would be necessary to keep open communication throughout that distance for the supply of the force, and a considerable number of men would of necessity be employed.

The force would consist of all arms, but it was the opinion of his Excellency the Governor that the force of Europeans should be small. This is a point which is now under discussion with his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, who has stated his opinion that the force should consist of—

Two Batteries, Horse Artillery.
Two Batteries, Field Artillery.
One Mortar Battery.
One Mountain Train.
One Squadron of European Cavalry.
Four Regiments of Native Cavalry.
Six Companies of Sappers and Miners.
One Regiment of Sikh Pioneers.
Four Regiments, European Infantry.
Nine Regiments, Native Infantry.

4. The command of the expedition has been since determined by instructions received from you by telegram.

5. Your second question is, "How long, after receiving from England orders to prepare the force, would it take to ensure its being ready for service?" So far as the troops are concerned, they could be embarked in a very short time; but, looking to the difficulty of finding transport animals, which have to be collected, and the large quantity of supplies which, in our ignorance of what the country itself produces it is necessary to take, we do not think that it will be possible to move from Bombay till toward the close of the year. No. 35.

6. Your next question is, "What arrangements would be made for its transport?" We have so few vessels fit for transport purposes at our command that it will be requisite to take up as many steam vessels as possible. By availing ourselves of our power under the contracts with the Peninsular and Oriental and the British and India Steam Navigation Companies, and by securing other vessels which may be for charter, we may, including everything, obtain from twenty to twenty-five steam vessels. It will also be possible to assist sailing vessels by towing, and, independently of this, the season of the year and its prevailing wind favour the employment of sailing vessels. We think also that it may, perhaps, be practicable to use the new troop ships for one or two passages. With respect to this we are in communication with the Government of India, by whom you will probably be addressed on the point.

7. The next question in your Despatch is, "At what point would it be proposed to land, bearing in mind that it is essential, if possible, to avoid landing on Egyptian territory." At the present moment, no definitive conclusion has been arrived at on this point, and, therefore, it is proposed to send a small party, with sufficient escort, to reconnoitre. But, as at present advised, the most available point seems to be in Hawakil Bay, near the Island of Bukur. If debarked there, the invading force would be only forty miles from a place called Mara, where a stream of running water is found, and where a healthy spot for the first depôt on the highlands will be at once accessible. It will, however, be necessary to ascertain whether the reports we have received regarding the anchorage and freedom from impediments to navigation be correct, and this, therefore, will be the first place which the reconnoitring party will visit.

8. If this place in Hawakil Bay be not found suitable, it appears that the shore round Annesley Bay will be the most eligible place of debarkation. In this case, also, the first depôt will be at Mara, but the distance will be about seventy miles.

9. On account of Massowah being the post of an Egyptian governor and garrison, we desire, if possible, to avoid debarking there, if equally favourable circumstances, in other respects, be found elsewhere. But it will be impossible to avoid Egyptian territory, as the only available place not in Egyptian territory appears to be Tajurra, where the climate, roads, population, and facilities for procuring water and forage, are so unfavourable that any idea of debarking the force there must be abandoned.

10. You further ask, "What commissariat arrangements would be requisite?" Our knowledge of the interior of Abyssinia being most imperfect, it will be requisite to send the force amply supplied to meet all contingencies, and requisitions have been already sent to you for such stores as are required from England.

11. The next question is, "What reserve would be necessary to ensure success, and how is it proposed to keep this supplied?" If reinforcements should be found needful, we should be able to send some immediately from Aden, and more from India.

12. Your last question is, "Whether any and what preliminary steps would have to be taken?" Beyond the instructions we have already received, we have no suggestions to make excepting that, while on the one hand it is desirable to avoid any appearance of alliance with the Egyptian Government, on the other hand, as the landing will be made on Egyptian territory, we conclude that Her Majesty's Government has taken the necessary steps to secure the sanction of the Egyptian Government to our landing, and to prevent misunderstanding with, or opposition by, the local authorities.

We have, &c.,

WM. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

R. NAPIER.

B. H. ELLIS.

J. MANSFIELD.

No. 448.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India in Council.
(Received September 20th, 1867.)

Military, No. 64.

Right Honourable Sir,

Poona, 24th August 1867.

Referring to our Despatch, No. 63 of this date, we have the honour to submit the accompanying memorandum on the subject of the supply of the money to the force in Abyssinia.

WM. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

B. H. ELLIS.

J. MANSFIELD.

Enclosure in No. 448.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Poona, 24th August 1867.

The expenditure for such a force as has been proposed by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for Abyssinia would be about five lacs of rupees monthly for pay and allowances, and between five and six lacs of rupees for Commissariat expenditure, exclusively of any purchase of transport animals.

From the first-mentioned sum a considerable deduction would be due to remittances, but it would be desirable to supply nearly ten lacs of rupees a month for some months, and it would be convenient that as much as possible should be German crowns.

The Chief Secretary is requested to make any needful communication to the Accountant General and the Government of India for preparing the means of effecting this supply in Abyssinia from the beginning of next year.

Copy of this memorandum will be sent to the Secretary of State.

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 449.

The Inspector of Stores, India Office, to the Military Secretary, India Office.

India Store Department, Belvedere Road,
20th September 1867.

Sir,

I have the honour to state, that during my absence for a few days in the country, Colonel Wray, of the Royal Artillery, was so kind as to act for me in matters connected with the Woolwich Arsenal.

I have now seen the Otago pack-saddle tried on a horse, and consider it to be very superior to that which it was at first proposed to issue for the Abyssinian expedition, and which is certainly ill adapted for that service.

I beg to state that I endorse all the opinions expressed by Colonel Wray on this subject, and I agree with him in considering that the Otago pack-saddle should be substituted for the other pack-saddle for carrying the ammunition of the Abyssinian mountain service batteries, it being 20 lbs. lighter. I am told that this could be effected with very slight alteration, and I would recommend that a requisition for the exchange be at once addressed to the War Department. Nos. 327 and 421.

I am, &c.,

M. WILLOUGHBY, Major-General.

P.S. — Since writing the above, I have inspected one of the proposed Otago saddles on a horse, with ammunition boxes packed and slung to it; and I find the total weight which the animal carries, including bridle and tarpaulin, to be 261 lbs.; and, as I am told there is a difference of 20 lbs. between the saddle for the mountain train, now under manufacture, and the Otago one (both stripped), the weight to be carried, if the former is used for the campaign, will be about 281 lbs.—M.W.

No. 450.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 21st September 1867.

No. 422.

With reference to your letter, dated the 19th instant, on the subject of the adoption of the Otago pattern pack-saddle for the mountain train equipment for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by Sir John Pakington to request that you will have the goodness to move the Secretary of State for India in Council to give orders that 52 of these saddles may be delivered as soon as possible to the Principal Superintendent of Stores, Woolwich, for the purpose of being fitted with the ammunition boxes for the mountain train.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 451.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 21st September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the Director-General of Stores for this Office has been instructed to send the necessary requisition for the covers and packing cases which were made for the service pattern pack-saddles, and which now remain on hand at Woolwich. No. 415.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 452.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Dr. BEKE.

Sir,

India Office, 21st September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a copy of a pamphlet written by you in the year 1861, containing letters to the Foreign Office and Board of Trade on the subject of the commerce and politics of Abyssinia,

See No. 393. having been transmitted to this Office from the Treasury, was forwarded to the Bombay Government by the last mail, and I am desirous to request that you will be so good as to inform me how further copies of it may be obtained.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.
Military Secretary.

No. 453.

The Political Secretary, India Office, to the Rev. Dr. KRAFF.

Sir, India Office, September 21st, 1867.

No. 391. I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, addressed to Mr. Private Secretary Benthall, and I am to inform you in reply that the Secretary of State is willing to accede to your proposal to associate with yourself, in the duties (connected with the British expeditionary force to Abyssinia) entrusted to you in Mr. Melvill's letter of the 17th instant, both Mr. Haussman and the
No. 390. young Abyssinian student to whom you refer in your letter.

Sir Stafford Northcote desires to be informed with respect to the amount of the salaries which you would consider it necessary to attach to these appointments. You will, of course, understand that the same restrictions as are imposed in Mr. Melvill's letter of the 17th instant, with respect to proselytising measures and religious controversy, are as applicable to Mr. Haussman as to yourself.

I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to add, with reference to the draft proclamation which you have forwarded for his perusal, that, whilst he thanks you for the suggestions which it contains, he considers that it is expedient to leave to Sir Robert Napier full discretion with respect to the nature of the manifestoes to be issued after his arrival in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

J. WM. KAYE,
Secretary in Secret and Political
Departments.

No. 454.

Major CHAMPAIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 5, John Street, Adelphi, September 1867.

No. 432. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the 20th instant from the Military Secretary. It refers to the weight of packages of telegraph stores which are now being prepared for Abyssinia.

No. 190. In my letter of the 3d instant, I suggested that the drums, &c., which are each to form half the load of a mule, should not exceed 140 lbs. in weight; and, when issuing orders to the manufacturers, I reduced this standard to 135 lbs.

My reasons for naming this as the proper half load of a mule were derived from the experience of myself and of my officers during the past four or five years, while constructing the telegraph in Persia.

Many thousand mule-loads of wire and insulators have been sent up the country from Bushire, and distributed along a distance of 1,200 miles, and in every case 300 lbs. was considered the fair burden for one animal.

At least this weight, in addition to the pack-saddle, is regularly carried by a Persian mule, over passes probably as difficult as any in the world, at a rate of from 15 to 20 miles a day.

To load a mule too lightly is undoubtedly a mistake. He is likely to give trouble on the march, and trots down steep inclines, thereby shaking and disarranging his burden. But a more serious objection is that, by diminishing the load, the number of baggage animals is increased, and in this particular instance the trouble and time requisite to join up lengths of wire would be exactly doubled by adopting 80 lbs. instead of 140 lbs. as the standard half load.*

* Taking 20 lbs. as the weight of the naked drum, in the former case 60 lbs. wire would be carried, in the latter 120 lbs.

Although I am sure that with ordinary mules (carrying common pack-saddles) 280 lbs. would not be too heavy, yet I am so anxious that the trouble of re-arranging weights after landing the stores should not be risked, that I venture to propose that I may be authorized to communicate with the manufacturers of core and wire, and to request them to reduce the drums to 120 lbs.

Other packages might at the same time be brought down to 100 lbs.

I have, &c.,

JOHN U. CHAMPAIN.

No. 455.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting
Consul-General in Egypt.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 21, 1867.

Lord Stanley has had under his consideration, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, the application made by you in your despatch of the 30th ultimo, to be allowed to accompany the projected expedition to Abyssinia, and I am now directed by his Lordship to inform you that he conceives that the interests of the public service will be best consulted by your remaining at your post. No. 294.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MURRAY.

No. 456.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Consul at Alicante.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 21, 1867.

Lord Stanley referred to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War your despatches of the 10th and 12th instant, and I am now directed by his Lordship to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the War Office, explaining the course which Sir John Pakington wishes should be followed in providing funds for the purchase of mules for the expedition to Abyssinia; and I am to instruct you to act in accordance with Sir John Pakington's wishes. Nos. 365 and 380. No. 398.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MURRAY.

No. 457.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Assistant Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, War Office, September 21, 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 19th instant, stating that Lord Stanley had instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, by telegraph, to request the Spanish Government to allow mule transports calling at Alicante and Valencia to be treated as military shipping, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will move his Lordship to instruct Sir John Crampton to endeavour to obtain this concession at the other Spanish ports to which it may be found expedient to send the mule transports. No. 418.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 458.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador
at Madrid.

Foreign Office, September 21, 1867.

Ask Spanish Government to grant concession requested for mule transports at all Spanish ports. See No. 437.

No. 459.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 21, 1867.

No. 441.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Brindisi, stating that Mr. Commissary Baynes, who is purchasing mules at that port for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, is unable to get his bills on the Treasury cashed, and requesting to be informed whether a guarantee for the amount may be given by Her Majesty's Consulate, and I am to request that, in laying this paper before the Secretary of State for War, you will move him to inform Lord Stanley what reply should be returned to Mr. Grant on this subject.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MURRAY.

No. 460.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

War Office, September 21, 1867.

No. 459.

In reply to your letter of this day's date, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will move Lord Stanley to instruct Her Majesty's Consul at Brindisi to give the necessary guarantee to enable Commissary-General Baynes to negotiate the bills drawn by him on the Treasury for the purchase of mules.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 461.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Consul at Brindisi.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 23, 1867.

No. 441.

Lord Stanley referred to the Secretary of State for War your telegraphic despatch of the 20th instant, requesting to be informed whether you might give the necessary guarantee to enable Mr. Commissary-General Baynes to negotiate the bills drawn by him on the Treasury for the purchase of mules for the projected Abyssinian expedition; and I am directed by his Lordship to state to you that he transmitted to you this day a reply by telegraph in the following words:—

“You may give the guarantee necessary to enable the Commissary-General to negotiate bills on Treasury.”

I am, &c.,

JAMES MURRAY.

No. 462.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 23d September 1867.

No. 404.

With reference to my letter of the 18th instant, informing you that Sir Stafford Northcote had accepted the offer of Dr. Krapf to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia, I am directed to forward, for the information of Lord Stanley, copy of further corre-

spondence with the same gentleman, from which it will be seen that the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the employment as associates with Dr. Krapf of Mr. Haussman and a young Abyssinian student. Nos. 391 and 453.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 463.

The Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 23d September 1867.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you herewith, for communication to the Secretary of State for India in Council, with reference to previous correspondence relative to the expenses of the Abyssinian expedition, copy of a minute of my Lords upon that subject.

I am to suggest that my Lords may be favoured with any observations which Sir Stafford Northcote may have to make regarding the change proposed.

I am to state that, in the event of there being no objection on his part to the arrangement as now proposed, my Lords would be glad to be furnished, as early as possible, with an approximate estimate of the expenditure that will be incurred by the India Government, together with any information he may have received from the Admiralty and War Office, as to the probable expenditure to be incurred by those Departments.

I am to add, in conclusion, that my Lords trust that, under the special circumstances of the case, the ordinary pay of the troops, &c. in the service of the Indian Government which may be employed in the expedition will remain a charge upon the Indian exchequer.

I am, &c.,
GEO. A. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 463.

Treasury Minute, dated 23d September 1867.

The Financial Secretary states to the Board that, having again considered the arrangements that have been agreed upon between this Board and the India Office with regard to the expenditure connected with the expedition to Abyssinia, and having been in communication with the Admiralty and the War Office upon the subject, he has arrived at the conclusion that it would be desirable that some change in the contemplated mode of keeping the accounts and providing for the expenditure of the expedition should be made.

Her Majesty's Government having determined that all the arrangements for the prosecution of any military operations which may become necessary should be entrusted to Her Majesty's Indian authorities, but that the whole expense of the expedition should be borne by the Imperial exchequer, Mr. Hunt is of opinion that, so far as expenditure is concerned, the expedition should be considered as an Imperial expedition conducted through the agency of the Government of India.

He submits, therefore, for the consideration of the Board that, in this view, it will be desirable to proceed, as far as practicable, in accordance with the principles laid down in the Treasury Minutes of 24th February 1852 and 27th November 1840, and that all expenditure incurred in making preparations for the expedition should be defrayed out of the Army and Navy votes under the appropriate heads of service, and he has reason to suppose that, so far as regards present requirements, there are sufficient funds which, under their Lordships' sanction, may be legitimately applied to that purpose.

He would suggest that any expenditure incurred on this side of Suez, instead of being charged as advances to the India Government, as directed in the Treasury Minute of 31st August 1867, should be met by direct payments from Army and Navy votes, while that incurred by the Government of India on behalf of the Imperial Government in this country (which cannot be charged to Army or Navy votes), or on the other side of Suez, should be provided for in the first instance out of Indian funds, and that repayment should be made upon proper vouchers to the Indian Exchequer out of Army and Navy votes.

Should these votes not suffice for the purpose, it will be necessary to ask Parliament to make special provision for the same.

Under this arrangement the conduct of the expedition and the arrangements preparatory would, as already settled, be entrusted to Her Majesty's Indian authorities.

The Secretary of State for India in Council would, as before proposed, make demands upon the Military and Naval Departments for everything which they can supply, but such demands would be dealt with as made for an Imperial service, and be provided for out of existing grants for those Departments, if sufficient, and if not out of funds to be provided by Parliament.

Thus the responsibility of those Departments as to all issues made and contracts entered into by them would not be impaired.

See No. 38. As regards those preparations which can more advantageously be made in India, much discretion must necessarily be left to the Bombay Government, and reliance must be placed on the authorities there to carry out the injunctions which Sir Stafford Northcote informs Mr. Hunt he has sent out to them "to refrain from any expenditure which is not indispensable."

Mr. Hunt is, however, of opinion that it would be desirable that some officer well versed in the accounts of the Military and Naval Departments should be instructed to proceed to Bombay, to co-operate with the Officers of the Indian Government there, in examining the accounts of the expenditure incurred for the expedition, and to give information as to the nature of the vouchers that should be sent to this country to sustain such accounts, and to make reports to their Lordships from time to time upon any matters arising out of such examination which may seem to call for observation.

It is possible that, in some instances, a difficulty may be found by the Officers charged by the Indian Government to make up the accounts, in separating the items properly chargeable to the current expenditure of Bombay from those relating to the expedition; and it will be the duty of the gentleman who may be selected for the special service above mentioned to give them every assistance in this matter, and to call the attention of this Board to the case of any item debited to the account of the expedition which he may consider not properly so chargeable.

The adoption of this arrangement will, it is anticipated, facilitate the settlement of accounts in this country, and prevent the indefinite postponement of claims which has occurred frequently before between the Home and Indian Governments under similar circumstances.

My Lords, having given full consideration to Mr. Hunt's suggestions, concur with him entirely as regards the expediency of making the change proposed in the mode of charging and providing for the expenditure which the preparations for the expedition will involve, and also with respect to sending out an Officer well versed in the accounts of the Naval and Military Departments, with the functions proposed to be assigned to him by Mr. Hunt. Their Lordships, however, consider it desirable that it should be understood that it is not intended to transfer to that Officer any portion of the responsibility, either financial or otherwise, involved in the arrangements for the expedition, or to give him any power of interfering in any manner with those upon whom the responsibility of the arrangements will rest, but that the object which my Lords have in view in sending out the Officer referred to is to facilitate the settlement of accounts in this country, as stated by Mr. Hunt.

My Lords deem it proper to observe that the arrangements regarding the accounts, and providing for the expenditure proposed in this Minute, have relation to the preparations for the military operations which will become necessary in the event of hostilities against King Theodorus being actually commenced.

In such event it is obvious that further measures will become necessary.

No. 464.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 23d, 1867.

Pray send overland, direct to Aden, the following stores, for 12-pounder Armstrong guns, required to complete G. Battery, ordered to Abyssinia,—702 adapters fuzes; 702 bursters, common, filled; 702 fuzes, concussion; 702 shells, common; 282 shot, case.

No. 465.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 23d September 1867.

No. 442. I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he concurs in the interpretation placed by the Secretary of State for War on the telegram from Bombay, and that he approves of instructions being given to Colonel Kennedy that the entire management of the mule depôts in Egypt is to be left in his hands from the reception of the mules at Alexandria till the delivery to the agents of the Bombay Government at Suez.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 466.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 23d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, and, in reply, to request that intimation may be given to this Office, as early as possible, of the probable date of arrival at Alexandria of the first lot of mules which are being collected for the purposes of the Abyssinian expedition. No. 405.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 467.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 23d September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter which has been received from Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., reporting his arrival in Alexandria, and the preliminary steps taken by him for carrying out the service connected with the collection of mules for the Abyssinian expedition.

Sir John Pakington has notified his approval of Colonel Kennedy's proceedings, and has requested him to procure as many mules as possible.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 467.

Colonel CLARK KENNEDY to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Alexandria, 11th September 1867.

I have the honour to report my arrival at Alexandria this afternoon at 2 o'clock, and to state that I at once placed myself in communication with Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General, and consulted with him as to the local arrangement to be made with the Egyptian Government for carrying out the service with which I have been charged.

Having obtained an interview with Chérif Pacha, the Regent in the Viceroy's absence, and after explaining the nature of the permission and assistance required, his Excellency stated that every facility would be given towards the assembly and storage of mules and their equipment in Egypt, and of their transit from Alexandria to Suez.

Upon leaving the Regent, the Director of the Railways, who had been desired to point out such places in the vicinity of the landing wharf and railway as might be available for the formation of a mule depôt, took us to three places, one of which, the Gabary palace, now unoccupied, appeared suitable as barracks for the depôt and encamping ground for the mules; but, as the inspection of these places was not concluded till dark, and there are other sites to be visited to-morrow morning, a final decision cannot be made until noon, and then all necessary arrangements will be made for quartering the detachments which left England for Alexandria on the 4th instant, and for the reception of the first lot of mules that may arrive.

The cholera having appeared in Malta, no personal communication took place, but the Governor wrote to say that there were 200 mules ready for shipment to Egypt; I therefore applied at once upon arrival here to-day to know to what (if any) quarantine mules from Malta would be subjected, and upon receipt of an answer will communicate with the Governor of Malta.

Your telegrams of the 6th and 7th instant were received at Malta, directing certain changes in the parties of Officers detailed to purchase mules, and were acted upon.

I have reason to believe that a few hundred mules may be obtained in Egypt, and, if an arrangement can be made with Cairo dealers to deliver them at a certain rate at our depôt at Suez, a very considerable saving may be effected on the price of each mule, and acclimatized animals obtained.

By a telegram just received, it appears that Lieutenant Roberts has moved from Genoa to Brindisi.

I have, &c.,
J. CLARK KENNEDY, Colonel,
Commanding Military Train.

No. 468.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 23d September 1867.

No. 327. With reference to your letter of the 12th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a copy of a letter which has been received from the Inspector General of Stores for this Office, expressing his concurrence in the view of the Ordnance Select Committee as to the superiority of the Otago pack-saddle, over the service pattern, for the purposes of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 469.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services, Somerset House.

Sir, India Office, 23d September 1867.

No. 315. With reference to your letter of the 11th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that he has received a telegram from the Government of Bombay, stating that they are not desirous of accepting the offer of Messrs. A. Brett & Co. to supply a twin screw tug boat and barges for the use of the Abyssinian expedition.

No. 423. 2. The letter from Messrs. Brett is herewith returned.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 470.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 23d September 1867.

No. 406. With reference to your letter dated 18th instant, requesting that the Snider ammunition and any stores likely to be carried on pack animals might be packed in boxes of not more than 80 lbs. weight, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to inform you that all the stores sent from Woolwich, that weigh themselves under the weight given, are so packed, and this arrangement has been adhered to since the commencement of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am to add, that the ammunition for Snider arms is packed in cases of 500 rounds each, and weight 60 lbs. per case.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 471.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services, Somerset House.

Sir, India Office, 23d September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a considerable quantity of stores will be ready for shipment to Egypt, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, in the course of this and the following month; and I am desired to request that he may be informed what amount of tonnage is available on board the "Serapis" for the conveyance of these stores.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary

No. 472.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
23d September 1867.

In reply to
No. 375.

We have troops of our own and from other Presidencies anxious to go, and could not well accept Major Fraser's recommendation.

I shall send a member of the Geological Survey from Bengal, and probably two other scientific men for botanical and meteorological observations. I would send another practical geologist and mineralogist, if you can send them; perhaps Sir R. Murchison could name one who has been in Australia. Palgrave might be of use, if there are manuscripts to be found.

No. 473.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir, War Office, 23d September 1867.
I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of No. 367. your letter of the 16th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that instructions have been given for the testing of one of Norton's Patent American tube wells at Chatham, with a view to ascertaining their probable utility in Abyssinia, and that a further communication will be addressed to you on the subject.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 474.

Mr. PROSSER to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 5, Whitehall, 24th September 1867.
At the interview you honoured me with yesterday, I omitted to state that the lamp and lens are arranged to move simultaneously, so as to take a compass of 45 degrees, thus covering, when found necessary, a large tract of ground in the distance.
I will avail myself of this opportunity further to state that the weight of the lamp, lens, and gasholders, when fitted all ready for use, will not exceed 112 lbs., and that the apparatus for making the gases will only be 2 or 3 cwt. The gases may be made, and the portable gasholders filled, upon any spot in the open air most convenient, the space required being only about five feet square.

I have, &c.,
W. PROSSER.

No. 475.

The Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Bank of England, 24th September 1867.
Referring to your letter of the 27th ultimo, I am now directed to inform you that, No. 87. by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer from Trieste on the 20th instant, 100,000 dollars have been shipped to the care of Captain Henry Johnson, Agent to the Indian Government at Alexandria.

The drawing account of the Secretary of State in Council of India has been debited on account of this shipment as under, viz:—

	£	s.	d.
On the 21st instant	12,702	0	4
„ 24th „	8,451	12	4

A detailed statement of the purchases will be forwarded to you in due course.

I have, &c.,
F. MAY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

No. 476.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
24th September 1867.

Sir,

No. 471.

With reference to your letter of the 23d instant, I beg to acquaint you that the "Serapis" cannot convey anything beyond one mountain battery and the two or three tons of ammunition, observing that, if tonnage is to be engaged by this Department for the India Office Stores, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition mentioned in your letter, it is desirable that the requisitions for freight should come forward without delay, as time will be occupied in issuing the necessary advertisements and taking up the freight.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDS.

No. 477.

The Political Secretary, India Office, to the Rev. Dr. KRAPF.

Sir,

India Office, 24th September 1867.

No. 430.

I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and I am to inform you in reply, that it was the object of the Secretary of State for India, in making the stipulation with respect to missionary efforts in Abyssinia, contained in Mr. Melvill's letter of the 17th instant, to avoid the possibility of any embarrassment arising in consequence of suspicion or alarm being excited in the minds of the natives of the country by the appearance of any proselytising efforts on the part of the officers of the expedition. But I am to add, that it was not the intention of Sir Stafford Northcote to impose such restrictions upon you as would seal your lips against all conversation with the people who may voluntarily address questions to you on religious subjects, though you are to consider yourself bound, by the nature of your official duties, not to originate such discussion. With this understanding Her Majesty's Government are willing to receive your services in the capacity of dragoman to accompany the expedition, and will trust to your discretion with respect to the important matters which have been brought to your notice.

No. 390.

I am, &c.,

J. WM. KAYE,

Secretary in the Political and Secret Department.

No. 478.

Dr. KRAPF to the Political Secretary, India Office.

Most honoured Sir,

Kornthal, near Stuttgart, 24th September 1867.

No. 453.

I had the honour to receive your letter dated 21st instant, and I beg to express my most respectful thanks to Sir Stafford Northcote for his having condescended in permitting Mr. Haussmann to associate with me in the duties of a dragoman for the expedition to Abyssinia.

As to salary to which your letter alludes, I have conferred with Mr. Haussmann, who addressed the enclosed letter to me in reference to this subject. He begs me to add that, if Sir Stafford Northcote would feel inclined to accede to his humble request, he would feel most grateful if half, or, at least, a considerable part, of the granted sum would be allowed to him previous to his departure, for making the requisite equipment; the other portion he would expect after having accomplished his duties. Of course he would be obliged for a free passage and free station.

In regard to the Abyssinian student Aragan, I am sorry for being under the necessity of stating that he has entirely declined accompanying me on the expedition. He stands in fear that, if King Theodorus should hear of his coming with foreign troops, he would unrelentingly destroy his parents and relations, an atrocity which the passionate monarch has lately committed on a detachment of his soldiers who sided with the rebel army.

Sorry as I am at Aragan's refusal, yet I can understand, and in a measure justify, his motives.

In the meantime I have written to Jerusalem and Cairo that my friends should select two able Abyssinians from their acquaintance, one to be a native of Tigré, and the other of Amhara. I would not claim more for each of them than two or three pounds per month and free ration, as long as they prove faithful and useful to the expedition.

I consider it as self-understood that all my associates are placed under the same standard in religious matters like myself, leaving, at the same time, liberty of conscience

to every one of us, as I have fully explained in my letter dated 20th, and addressed to Mr. Melvill, to which letter I would most respectfully beg Sir Stafford Northcote would condescend to reply a few words as early as convenient to him, as I cannot join the expedition with heart and soul as long as this delicate point is not satisfactorily dispensed with. No. 430.

Futhermore, in regard to Sir Stafford Northcote's request, as expressed in the above-mentioned letter of Mr. Melvill, viz., "that I should not enter into separate correspondence with any persons in Abyssinia without the previous consent of the Commander-in-Chief," I beg to say that I consider this restriction to be perfectly just and necessary in reference to natives as well as Europeans. I understand, from the German papers, that several officers, being no Englishmen, wish to join the expeditionary force. Sir R. Napier may be assured that I shall not be communicative to any one except to him alone, and that, however courteous I wish to every one, yet I shall be reserved in reference to giving information to other persons besides the Commander-in-Chief.

The Abyssinian rulers will, no doubt, convince themselves of the importance and value of disciplined troops, and will henceforth conceive a desire of disciplining their army for future designs and emergencies. What will be more natural to expect than that they will engage some foreign officers for this purpose, and these will take advantage of the present opportunity, and likely solicit my assistance for being brought into connexion with the native Chiefs. I shall absolutely reject any suchlike demand.

Lastly, I beg to assure Sir Stafford Northcote that, in regard to the manifestoes, I shall leave this and every other matter that may appear rash and precipitate on my part entirely to the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief.

With profound esteem,

I am, &c.,
L. KRAPP.

No. 479.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 24th, 1867.

We shall probably be able to send about five thousand mules to Suez by the beginning of November. Do you want more? and, if so, how many?

No. 480.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 24th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with reference to the fitting up of the hospital ships for the Abyssinian expedition, a copy of a letter which has been received from the Secretary of the Patent Bread Machine Company, suggesting the use on board those vessels of Stevens's Patent Breadmaking Machines.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 481.

Telegram from the Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General,
Bombay, September 24th, 1867.

In reply
No. 395.

Captain Moore accepts, and will be at Bombay before fifteenth November.

No. 482.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
September 24th, 1867.*

We only send four European regiments, for which, probably, small addition would suffice; one Deputy Inspector, three Staff Surgeons-Major, four Staff Surgeons, eight Staff Assistant Surgeons, for duty with any part of the force, to be sent to Suez, where instructions will meet them, are asked for by Dr. Gordon, for British regiments. I think better to send Staff available, on order of Commander-in-Chief, for duty with any part of the force; number will depend on return of Surgeons at home on medical certificate, who should be directed to return, if fit for service,—probably fifteen, in addition to above number, enough. On arrival at Suez, instructions will meet them. Advise departure.

No. 483.

Mr. TREVOR C. PLOWDEN to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

80, Gloucester Place, Portman Square,
24th September 1867.

My Lord,

It is well known that a great friendship and mutual esteem existed between my brother, the late Mr. Walter Plowden, and the King of Abyssinia. But no one knows how strong this feeling was, and how great the estimation in which my brother was held by the King, as members of his family from personal intercourse with him.

Founded on this knowledge, it has occurred to us that a letter to the King from me, Mr. W. Plowden's elder brother and representative, might have an influential effect in obtaining the release of the captives in Abyssinia, and that at all events it would do them no harm to make the attempt. If your Lordship should be of this opinion, I shall be happy to prepare a letter and submit it to your Lordship's approval, and to send it direct from myself and unconnected with the Government.

If this proposition be unacceptable, I trust your Lordship will nevertheless excuse the intrusion on your valuable time in consideration of the motive of public duty, which alone has prompted me to address you.

I am, &c.,
TREVOR C. PLOWDEN.

No. 484.

The Consul at Bilbao to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. (Received
September 24.)

My Lord,

Bilbao, September 21, 1867.

I have the honour, at the request of Mr. Vice-Consul Leopold March, to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which he has addressed me, enclosing sketches of Spanish mountain artillery.

I have, &c.
HORACE YOUNG.

Enclosure in No. 484.

Vice-Consul MARCH to Consul YOUNG.

Sir,

Santander, September 17, 1867.

I had the honour to transmit a report on the Spanish mountain artillery to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in a despatch dated October 15, 1857, which was forwarded to the War Office.

* Note.—This message being unintelligible in the form in which it was received in London, a repetition was asked for, which arrived on the 1st of October.

In reference to the above report I now beg leave to enclose four sketches, showing the manner in which the carriage, wheels, and guns of the Spanish mountain artillery are carried with ease and safety (the piece, as will be seen, pointing to the rear,) through the most difficult and broken country possible to conceive; a mode of conveyance which, I respectfully submit, is well adapted to the narrow roads, or rather pathways, of Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
LEOPOLD MARCH.

No. 485.

Dr. BEKE to the Under Secretary of State for India.

East India United Service Club,
September 25th, 1867.

Sir,

In reply to General Pears's letter of the 21st instant, on the subject of further copies of my pamphlet on the Commerce and Politics of Abyssinia, privately printed in 1861, a copy of which had been transmitted to your Office from the Treasury, and forwarded to the Bombay Government by the last mail, and with reference to the conversation which took place when I had the honour of calling at the India Office on the 23d instant, I now beg leave to state that I find, on inquiry, that a few copies of my pamphlet are in my house at Bekesbourne, and I have accordingly given orders that six copies of it may be sent to you. No. 452.

At the same time I take the liberty of enclosing a cutting from the "Athenæum," of the 17th instant, relative to the means of land transport in Abyssinia; and, in doing so, I would desire to direct your particular attention to the subject of Austrian species dollars therein alluded to.

On the 14th of August last I wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the most important subject of the money to be taken on the expedition. In particular, I showed how the soldiers of the escort of Major Harris's mission to Shoa, in 1841, *lost tenpence sterling on every rupee*, in consequence of their being paid in that coin instead of Austrian dollars; and I likewise pointed out the necessity for the dollars to be of one particular coinage, or they will not pass current in Abyssinia. In confirmation of this latter point, I have only this morning received a letter from which I learn that the captive missionaries at Magdala secured, through Mr. Flad, 100 dollars, sent by the Society to which they belong, and that "70 of these were useless, because they were not of the right kind, and, therefore, will not pass current with the Galla people, from whom they obtain their provisions."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer informed me that he had forwarded my letter to the Board of Treasury, from whom I should shortly hear on the subject. But, hitherto, I have not been honoured with any communication from their Lordships.

It is scarcely necessary for me to call your attention to the immense loss that would fall on the public Treasury, should proper care not be taken in this particular.

All this, and every other information and assistance, I have ever been but too ready to afford to Her Majesty's Government. I cannot, therefore, but feel it to be unjust to myself personally, and believe it will prove very detrimental to the public service, that I should be passed over in the arrangements for the expedition to Abyssinia, for a prominent part in which my extensive local and great experience peculiarly qualify me.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES BEKE.

No. 486.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Major J. U. CHAMPAIN.

Sir,

India Office, 25th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of your adoption of the measures proposed by you, with a view to reduce the weight of the packages of telegraph stores required to be carried by mules in the Abyssinian expedition. No. 454.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 487.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 25th September 1867.

No. 467.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he concurs in the expression of approval of Colonel Kennedy's proceedings, and in the desire that he should procure as many mules as possible in Egypt, with the view of completing the number of 5,000

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

Military Secretary.

No. 488.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

War Office, 25th September 1867.

As it is found impracticable to provide the hospital ships "Mauritius," "Golden Fleece," and "Queen of the South," with either ice making machines or a supply of ice before they leave this country, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to request that you will be pleased to cause such instructions to be issued as will ensure the supply of ice from Bombay or Aden, if deemed necessary by the principal Medical Officer of the expeditionary force, for the treatment of the sick on board the vessels in question.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 489.

Sir RANALD MARTIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

37, Upper Brook Street, 25th September 1867.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, on Warburg's Fever Drops.

2. From the testimony of great numbers of naval and military surgeons, during more than 20 years, there can be no doubt whatever as to their valuable febrifuge properties; and the only practical question is, wherein does this drug differ from quinine in power and value?

3. To determine this question, the Government of Vienna ordered two separate and independent Commissions, composed of the most eminent chemists, to examine and report on Warburg's Tincture; and both Commissions came separately and independently to the conclusion that quinine was largely present in the drug. Quinine was, in fact, produced pure in each analysis.

4. In George Town, Demerara, the scene of Warburg's experiences, and of alleged discovery, I find that quinine, and not his tincture, has been used by the British medical practitioners there, in the treatment of the formidable fevers of that country. Many years since, no less than three thousand ounces of quinine were imported into George Town annually.

5. I am aware that both in the East and West Indies, medical officers in numbers have reported on the efficacy of the Warburg Tincture; but the Vienna analysis shows that, without being aware of the fact, those officers have been reporting on a drug composed in sole or in chief part of quinine.

6. Dr. Bryson, the present Director General of the Navy, reported: "I am not prepared, from the trials made of these secret drops, to recommend their adoption in the Navy. The reports on their efficacy are contradictory, and can hardly be relied on. They were tried repeatedly during the last fifteen years, and are not to be trusted. The tincture is inferior to quinine."

7. I had the honour to report to the above effect on three occasions in 1859 to the authorities of the War Department and to the Secretary of State for India in Council;

and I added, in respect of the purchase of property in secret remedies, that they seldom proved worth purchase; and, in the instance of Warburg's Tincture, the Government of Vienna declined to purchase the secret.

I have, &c.,
J. R. MARTIN,
Inspector General of Hospitals.

No. 490.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

India Office, 25th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, dated the 24th and 27th ultimo, and 6th and 23d instant, relative to the financial arrangements between the Indian and Imperial Governments in respect of the expedition to Abyssinia. Nos. 78, 86, 243, and 463.

In regard to the arrangement that all expenditure incurred on this side of Suez shall be met by direct payments from Army and Navy votes, while that incurred by the Government of India on behalf of the Imperial Government in this country or on the other side of Suez should be provided for, in the first instance, out of Indian Funds, and that repayment should be made, upon proper vouchers, to the Indian Exchequer, Sir Stafford Northcote concludes that all sums disbursed for supplies obtained by this Office, otherwise than from Government Departments, that may be chargeable to those votes, will be repaid on the accounts of such expenditure, with vouchers, being furnished to the Treasury; and he observes, with satisfaction, that for all issues made and contracts entered into, by the Military and Naval Departments of the Imperial Government, it is clearly laid down that the entire responsibility in regard to quality, efficiency, and cost will rest with those Departments.

With reference to the hope expressed in your letter, that the ordinary pay of the troops in the service of the Indian Government which may be employed in the expedition may remain a charge on the Indian Exchequer, I am directed to inform you that the Secretary of State for India in Council has no desire to relieve the revenues of India from the charge of the troops which are to be sent to Abyssinia, so long as it is not necessary to replace them by others; and he is prepared to agree that the ordinary pay of those troops, European and Native, that may be employed in the expedition shall be borne by Indian revenues, on the distinct understanding that every other charge, whether for replacing Officers or soldiers withdrawn from their duties, or for extra allowances, pensions, or gratuities to Officers or soldiers, or for pensions to families of Officers, soldiers, or others who may be killed or disabled on this service, or on any other account, shall be repaid by the Imperial Exchequer, and that when it shall be found necessary to replace any portion of the force withdrawn from India, the whole expense consequent thereon shall be repaid to the Indian Government.

So far as relates to deputing an Officer of the Imperial Government to Bombay to aid in the examination of the accounts, and to indicate the vouchers that may be required, I am directed to state that, as the expenditure in India will be incurred under the immediate direction of the Government of Bombay, and will be governed by the regulations in force in that country, which must be regarded as sufficient authority for every payment, Sir Stafford Northcote does not see any necessity for deputing an Officer from this country on the service in question; but, as the object in view is the prompt settlement of the accounts, he will not offer any objection to the proposition. He requests, however, that the instructions with which it is proposed to furnish the Officer in question may be communicated to him.

In reference to the provision of coin to meet the expenditure in Abyssinia, I am directed to state that measures have been adopted for procuring "Maria Theresa" dollars in Austria, and for their shipment, *via* Trieste, to Alexandria, and thence to Aden, and that, from advices received at this Office, it is not anticipated that any difficulty will be experienced in obtaining an adequate supply.

Instructions have already been given to the Government of India to furnish, as early as possible, an estimate of the expenses which may probably be incurred in India during the ensuing six months in respect of the expedition, and when received it will be immediately forwarded to the Treasury. No. 146.

I forward, for any observations which the Lords of the Treasury may have to make copy of a Despatch which it is proposed to send to the Government of Bombay on this subject.

I have, &c.,
HERMAN MERIVALE.

No. 491.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
25th September 1867.

Sir,

No. 480.

With reference to your letter of the 24th instant, relative to fitting the Abyssinian hospital ships with Stevens's bread-making machines, I beg to acquaint you that those vessels have been fitted with all requisites, under the superintendence of the medical and purveying authorities of the army, and are now ready for sea, only waiting tide to leave the docks.

I am, &c.,
W. R. MENDS.

No. 492.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 25th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that Colonel Ross, Deputy Quartermaster-General in Egypt, has recommended the use of waterproof capes by the men employed in that country; and I am to request that I may be informed, as soon as possible, whether an issue should be made of these articles to the India Store Department for the detachments, consisting of 18 men of the Commissariat Staff Corps and 72 men of the Military Train, who have already proceeded to Egypt.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 493.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 25th September 1867.

No. 484.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and, in reply, to request that Sir Augustus Paget may be desired to thank Major de Fournoux and Lieutenant Luciani for the tender of their services with the Abyssinian expedition, and to state that Her Majesty's Government have no occasion to avail themselves of the offer.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 494.

Telegram from the Indian Government Agent at Alexandria to the Assistant Under Secretary of State for India, September 25th, 1867.

Is the treasure from Trieste to be insured from Suez to Aden?

No. 495.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 25th September 1867.

No. 466.

In reply to Major-General Pears's letter of the 23d instant, requesting that information may be given as early as possible of the probable date of arrival at Alexandria of the first lot of mules which are being collected for the purposes of the Abyssinian

expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, that three transports sail to-day, two ("Venetia" and "Parana") direct to Alicante, the other ("Bolivar") to Valencia, at which ports cargoes of mules are ready to be embarked; the remaining two vessels ("Counmoundouros" and "Empress") will sail on Saturday next, and will call at Gibraltar for orders.

The first three transports may be expected to arrive at Alexandria with their cargoes (516 mules) about the 13th proximo, and the last two (with 289 mules) about the 15th proximo, without quarantine.

From Brindisi 60 to 70 mules per week are to be shipped, commencing on 30th instant.

Endeavours are also being made by this Department to supplement the Admiralty transports with freight direct from the ports in the Mediterranean.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 496.

Telegram from the Military Secretary, India Office, to the Principal Transport Officer at Alexandria, September 25th, 1867.

The following stores will be sent to you, for transmission to Suez, to leave England about the dates specified:—One mountain battery with equipment, 9th October; five or six hundred tons, second mountain battery, ammunition, forage, and pack saddles, 12th October; eight hundred tons, pack-saddles, forage, and cooking ranges, 25th October. Answer by telegraph whether you need assistance, as inquired in my letter of 2d instant. To whom at Suez shall the stores be consigned? and shall they be sent to Alexandria or Port Said? No. 164.

No. 497.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 25th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward a copy of two letters which have been addressed to this Office by Surgeon-Major J. Wyatt, of the Coldstream Guards, respecting the use of the essence of watercress, in the form of an anti-scorbutic mixture, by the troops to be employed in Abyssinia; and I am desired to request that Sir Stafford Northcote may be favoured with the opinion of the Director General of the Army Medical Department on the subject.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 498.

The Chief Clerk of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, September 25th, 1867.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will lay before the Secretary of State for India the enclosed letter from Mr. Heinke, suggesting the advisability of diving apparatus for the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

J. H. BRIGGS.

No. 499.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 26th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that the

manufacturers have been requested to supply 52 Otago pack-saddles with all practicable despatch.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 500.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
September 26th, 1867.

About the 13th of October 800 mules from Spain will reach Alexandria; and about 60 per week will be sent from Italy, commencing with the 30th instant, from Brindisi.

No. 501.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services,
Somerset House.

Sir,

India Office, 26th September 1867.

No. 476.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that the tonnage for the stores which cannot be conveyed by the "Serapis" will be taken up by this Office.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 502.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 26th September 1867.

No. 492.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that he approves of the proposed issue of waterproof capes to the detachment of the Commissariat Staff Corps and Military Train which have proceeded to Egypt, but that, as all matters connected with the purchase of the mules have been left to the management of the War Department, he considers it advisable that in this case also the arrangements for the supply should be undertaken entirely by the War Office.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 503.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

War Office, 26th September 1867.

With reference to your letter dated 16th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying report, from the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham, on Norton's patent American tube well, which has been tested, with a view to ascertaining its probable utility in Abyssinia.

I am to request the return of the enclosure, as no copy of it has been retained in this Office.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 503.

The Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham to the Deputy Adjutant-General,
Royal Engineers.

Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham,
25th September 1867.

Sir,

I have to report, with reference to your Minute of the 19th instant on War Office letter of the 18th September, that Mr. Norton attended here on the 23d and 24th instant with his boring apparatus and pump, and that experiments have been made, by driving into very hard chalk in which were found layers of large hard flints.

A description of the well and apparatus shall be sent at a future date, but in the meantime I have to report that I consider it an exceedingly ingenious and clever method of boring into any material short of solid rock or very large boulders.

It is exceedingly simple of application, the whole weight of the boring apparatus being only about 150 lbs.

Not included in the boring apparatus are the pipes which constitute, as it were, the linings of the wells, and which weigh about $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. to the foot, and the pump for drawing from each well, which weighs about 24 lbs. These two latter items (pipes and pump) may be considered the expendable stores, as, when the station at which the well is sunk is permanent, as it would be on a line of route along which troops are constantly moving, they would be left in the ground, although in other positions where only temporarily required they may be placed for a few hours, and afterwards removed by drawing, a very simple process.

In three experiments the pipes were driven into hard solid chalk, as above described, at a rate of nearly four feet per hour; and, when water was found, the well soon cleared itself by being pumped, and an abundant supply was obtained.

The supply, however, must depend entirely on the quantity of water in the stratum tapped by the boring, but, if there be water within 25 feet from the surface, there is no doubt that this system of boring affords an exceedingly ready and easy means of finding it and bringing it to the surface; and, so far as the descriptions of travellers go, it seems peculiarly adapted for drawing water from the beds of the rivers in Abyssinia, and a far more speedy means of obtaining it than that of digging holes.

The water withdrawn from the lower strata will always be pure, whereas when dipped from holes it is generally impure; and the portable pumps supplied will, if the supply be sufficient, permit of its being pumped and distributed at the rate of ten gallons, or three ordinary buckets, per minute.

Such being the case, I have no hesitation in recommending it most strongly for adoption in the expedition about to proceed to Abyssinia.

For the purpose of sinking these wells, it is desirable that a few men, some of whom should be gas-fitters or smiths by trade, should be selected and thoroughly instructed here in the work, under an officer who should accompany them. They should be provided with 20 sets of boring apparatus, and I should recommend that material sufficient for sinking 100 wells to an average depth of 18 feet should be sent with them.

The weights to be sent will be—

Apparatus, 20 sets about	-	-	-	-	-	-	Tons.
100 sets of pipe, average 18 feet	-	-	-	-	-	-	$1\frac{1}{4}$
							$2\frac{1}{4}$
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	$3\frac{1}{2}$

all of which will be iron.

I should recommend that the whole be supplied in lengths of 6 feet each of pipe, with the exception of about 20 lengths of 10 feet each.

The apparatus with which Mr. Norton's agent bored here has a great defect, which should be remedied in the supplies to be sent to Abyssinia, viz., in the nuts and screws not being all made to one die.

If it be decided to use this apparatus in the manner herein described, I have to request that *immediate* authority may be given for me to procure one set of boring apparatus and a few lengths of pipe, for the instruction of the party who may be selected to work it.

I have, &c.,
J. L. A. SIMMONS,
Colonel, Royal Engineers,
Director.

P.S.—The cost of the whole apparatus, exclusive of patent rights, should be very small.

No. 504.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 26th September 1867.

With reference to your letter dated the 2d of July last, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of the Blue (4260.) F f

See page 179
of the Blue

Book of
1867.
Nos. 441 and
447.

of State for War, a copy of two letters which have been received from the Governments of India and Bombay, replying to the several inquiries put by Lord Stanley with reference to the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 505.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 26th September 1867.

No. 430.
No. 477.

With reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by Sir S. Northcote to forward, for the information of Lord Stanley, copy of a further letter from Dr. Krapf, together with the reply which has been addressed to him, respecting the conduct to be observed by that gentleman in religious discussions with the natives of Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 506.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 26th September 1867

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward a copy of a letter from Mr. Calvert* respecting the use of carbolic acid as a disinfectant and purifier of water; and I am to request that he may be favoured with the views of the Director General of the Army Medical Department on the subject.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 507.

Extract of a Letter from the Consul in Corsica to Mr. STAVELEY.

Pistoja, September 21st, 1867.

On the eve of returning to Bastia, I have received from Mr. Limperoni (Ex-Deputy, &c.), of that place, a request to forward an offer of from 300 to 400 mules for the Abyssinian expedition, at the price of 300 to 400 francs each; he vouches them to be of very superior quality.

No. 508.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, September 27th, 1867.

No. 507.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith an extract of a letter from Her Majesty's Consul for Bastia, stating that an offer has been made by an inhabitant of that town to supply Her Majesty's Government with mules for the use of the projected Abyssinian expedition; and I am to request that, in laying this paper before the Secretary of State for India in Council, you will move him to inform Lord Stanley what reply should be returned to Mr. Consul Smallwood on the subject.

I am, &c.,
E. HAMMOND.

* For a similar letter, see Enclosure 14 in No. 376.

No. 509.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Dr. BEKE.

Sir, India Office, 27th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to thank you for No. 485. your letter of the 25th instant, and for the copies of your pamphlet which accompanied it; and, in reply, I am desired to acquaint you that the important question of supplying the requisite coin for the use of the Abyssinian expedition has received full consideration from Her Majesty's Government, and that the necessary measures have been adopted.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 510.

Telegram from the Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant A. LE MESSURIER,
Royal Engineers, Southampton, September 27th, 1867.

You are requested to return to London at once. Your services are required in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

No. 511.

Dr. KRAFF to the Political Secretary, India Office.

Most honoured Sir, Kornthal, near Stuttgart,
27th September 1867.

I beg leave to inform you that I have received your letter, dated 24th instant, No. 477. which has given me full satisfaction.

Will you have the kindness to inform Sir Stafford Northcote that I am in every respect satisfied, and that I consider myself bound, as engaged interpreter to Her Majesty's force in Abyssinia, to act up to the duties which this engagement will demand from me.

With profound respect,

I am, &c.,
L. KRAFF.

No. 512.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Indian Government Agent at Alexandria, September 27th, 1867. In reply to No. 494.

Do not insure treasure.

No. 513.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 27th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that instructions No. 488. will be sent to the Government of Bombay to take such measures as may be necessary, with reference to the supply of ice for the three hospital ships which are about to start to join the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 514.

The Assistant Director of Ordnance to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 27th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed report from the Ordnance Select Committee, recommending the provision of 1,000 rounds of 7-pounder double shell for the Abyssinian expedition; and I am to request that you will move Sir Stafford Northcote to state whether he concurs in this proposal.

I am, &c.,
H. DYER.

Enclosure in No. 514.

Report of the Ordnance Select Committee.

September 27th, 1867.

The Committee have the honour to report that, during recent practice at Shoeburyness with the 7-pounder mountain gun, at high angles of elevation and with reduced charges, their attention was drawn to the advantages likely to be afforded from the employment of a double shell carrying a relatively large bursting charge, for purposes of dislodging an enemy protected by parapets or works, against which, under ordinary circumstances, it would be necessary to have recourse to the fire of mortars.

At the Committee's request, the Superintendent of the Royal Laboratory has furnished them with 30 double shells, weight filled about $14\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, carrying a bursting charge of one pound of powder; the length of the shell is 13·2 inches.

	Lbs.	Ozs.	Drs.
Weight, empty -	- 13	7	0
Bursting charge -	- 1	0	0
Wood Time fuze -	- 0	1	11
Total -	- 14	8	11

These shells were fired at Shoeburyness on the 24th instant, with charges varying from two to four ounces, at an elevation of 34° , and the results were so satisfactory that the Committee lose no time in recommending that 1,000 double shells of this pattern be

manufactured at once, for service in Abyssinia, to be carried with the reserve ammunition for that equipment.

The Committee would also point out that, when occasion requires the 7-pounder gun to be used as a mortar, the wheels should be taken off the carriage, and the gun and carriage laid on the ground, the angle of elevation, viz., 34° , being obtained by raising the breast of the carriage by such means as may be available.

JNO. H. KERR, V. P.,
Captain, Royal Navy.

No. 515.

The Acting Consul-General at Alexandria to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Alexandria, 18th September 1867.

In continuation of my Despatch of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship Cherif Pasha's reply to the communication which, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I addressed to His Excellency on the preceding day, for the purpose of notifying to the Viceroy the decision at which Her Majesty's Government had arrived, of sending a military expedition to Abyssinia, and of applying for such facilities and assistance as the Egyptian Government could, under the circumstances, accord to the Officers in charge of that expedition.

I have the honour also to enclose a copy of a letter which, pending any further acknowledgment which your Lordship may think proper to transmit, I deemed it to be my duty to address to His Excellency on receipt of his above-mentioned communication.

I have, &c.,
THOS. F. READE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 515.

RAGHIB PASHA to Mr. READE.

M. le Gérant,

Alexandrie, le 9 Septembre 1867.

J'ai pris connaissance de votre Dépêche du 29 Août dernier, et de la note y annexée de Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne. Par cette note Son Excellence explique que le Gouvernement Anglais ayant vainement essayé de tous les moyens aimables pour amener le Négus d'Abyssinie à libérer les Européens, par lui retenus captifs, s'est déterminé à user, au besoin, de la force pour atteindre ce but, et qu'il demande en conséquence du Gouvernement Egyptien l'autorisation de faire passer des troupes sur son territoire pour arriver à

l'Abyssinie, en même temps que son assistance en faveur des Officiers chargés de la direction de cette expédition, et dont quelques-uns auraient déjà reçu l'ordre de se rendre à cet effet à Massowah.

Son Excellence ajoute que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique retirera ses troupes immédiatement après, et qu'il entreprend cette expédition sans aucun esprit de conquête.

J'ai dû, M. le Gérant, prendre les ordres de Son Altesse le Vice-roi sur l'objet de cette communication.

Son Altesse me charge d'exprimer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, auquel il est uni par tant de liens d'amitié, tous ses regrets à propos des faits qu'il reproche au Négus d'Abyssinie, et qui le déterminent à user, au besoin, de la force pour obtenir satisfaction.

En même temps, Son Altesse ordonne que son Gouvernement accorde toutes les facilités possibles pour l'expédition; qu'un Officier spécial soit envoyé à cet effet, à Massowah; et que des instructions formelles soient transmises dans le même but aux autorités locales.

Je suis heureux, M. le Gérant, de porter à votre connaissance ces dispositions favorables, qui, de la part de Son Altesse, sont un nouveau témoignage du désir qu'elle éprouve de continuer les meilleurs relations avec votre Gouvernement;

Et je vous présente, etc., etc.,

RAGHIB.

Enclosure 2 in No. 515.

Mr. READE to RAGHIB PASHA.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Alexandrie, le 10 Septembre 1867.

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser la réception de la Dépêche de votre Excellence, me communiquant, de la part de Son Altesse le Vice-roi, les sentiments amicaux qu'elle a bien voulu exprimer au sujet de l'expédition militaire projetée contre l'Abyssinie; aussi bien que les ordres donnés par Son Altesse, afin que toute facilité possible soit accordée de la part du Gouvernement Egyptien aux Officiers de Sa Majesté Britannique chargés de cette expédition.

J'expédie à mon Gouvernement, par ce courier, une copie de la Dépêche de votre Excellence, et jusqu'à ce que je reçoive les instructions de Lord Stanley de vous transmettre une expression plus formelle de la reconnaissance de mon Gouvernement pour ces nouveaux témoignages d'amitié de la part de Son Altesse le Vice-roi et de son Gouvernement, je m'empresse en attendant de vous exprimer avec un vif plaisir, et au non de mon Gouvernement, ses remerciements sincères pour les services importants si gracieusement accordés par Son Altesse à cette occasion,—services qui ne manqueront pas, j'en suis convaincu, de serrer davantage les liens d'amitié qui existent depuis si longtemps entre nos deux Gouvernements.

Veillez, etc., etc.,

THOS. F. READE.

No. 516.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 27th September 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 10th instant, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a further Despatch from the Acting British Consul-General at Alexandria, enclosing a further correspondence with the Egyptian Government relative to the facilities granted by them for the passage through Egyptian territory of the projected expedition to Abyssinia. No. 295.

I am, &c.,

E. HAMMOND.

No. 517.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received September 27.)

My Lord,

Vienna, September 24, 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatches of this series to No. 33 inclusive of the 17th instant.

With reference to No. 33 respecting Maria Theresa dollars for the projected Abyssinian expedition, I have not failed, in conformity with your instructions, to thank the Austrian Government, through Baron Meysenbug, for the facilities which the Imperial Mint were disposed to afford of coining a supply of 3-dollars, and I informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government had no present occasion to avail themselves of them. No. 385.

I have, &c.,

BLOOMFIELD.

No. 518.

The British Transport Officer in Egypt to the Military Secretary, India Office.
(Received September 27, 1867.)

British Transport Office, Alexandria, Egypt,
18th September 1867.

Sir,

No. 164.

In reply to your letter of the 2d September 1867, informing me that considerable quantities of stores will arrive at Alexandria, consigned to me to be forwarded to Suez for shipment at that port, under instructions of the Bombay Government, for service in Abyssinia, I have the honour to report that I have made the necessary preparations for the reception of those stores, and for their being forwarded with as little delay as possible to Suez.

I am much obliged for the offer of further assistance from home, to enable me to carry out these instructions, but I shall not require, as far as I can see, other than local assistance, such as checking clerks, three for Alexandria, and two for Suez with a leading man.

I have secured store room at Suez, and hope the cargoes will be so well worked at Alexandria, both in discharge and by transit, that store room at the latter port, will not be required, but I can at any moment hire one.

I have, &c.,

JAMES B. WILLOUGHBY, Captain, R.N.,
Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

No. 519.

The British Transport Officer in Egypt to the Military Secretary, India Office.
(Received September 27, 1867.)

British Transport Office, Alexandria, Egypt,
18th September 1867.

Sir,

No. 163.

I have the honour to report that, in compliance with your orders contained in letter dated 2d September 1867, on arrival of Colonel Kennedy, C.B., I informed him of my instructions to render assistance in the landing of mules, &c., and co-operate generally with the Officers employed in Egypt by the Secretary of State for War.

No requisition has been made by Colonel Kennedy, C.B., as yet, to assist him in any way, and I am of opinion he will require none from me, as he has a very numerous staff of Officers and men.

Colonel Ross informs me that he is at the head, as Staff Officer.

The embarkation at Suez of these arrivals, I shall, however, consider my special duty, and have made all necessary arrangements for boats, &c., to take them off.

A distinct account for the expenses incurred in that service will be kept under head of Abyssinian expedition, but, doubtless, I shall receive further instruction in this matter.

I have, &c.,

JAMES B. WILLOUGHBY, Captain, R.N.,
Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

No. 520.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 27th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from Colonel Kennedy, C.B., on the subject of the arrangements with which he is entrusted in connexion with the reception and delivery to the agents of the India Government of the mules required for the Abyssinian expedition.

With reference to Colonel Kennedy's remark as to the superiority of the Syrian over the Spanish mule, as well as to the advantage in point of price (25*l.* covering cost of mule and all expenses of delivery at Suez), I am to request that you will acquaint me whether Sir Stafford Northcote considers it advisable to act upon this information, and reduce the purchases now being made in Spain.

Such a measure can be adopted, provided the delay of eight or ten weeks be not an obstacle.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 520.

Colonel CLARK KENNEDY, C.B., to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Alexandria, 18th September 1867.

I have the honour, in continuation of my letter of the 11th instant, to report the progress that has been made in formation of mule depôts in Alexandria and Suez, and in the arrangements for the transit of the mules through Egypt. Enclosure No. 467.

On the 13th the Viceroy returned from Constantinople, and on the following morning Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General, having obtained an appointment, presented me to His Highness at the Ras-e-tin Palace. The Viceroy inquired into the details of the collection and transit of the mules, and expressed himself in strong terms that every facility he could afford should be given, and personally confirmed the offer of the site in the grounds of the Gabary Palace made by his Minister prior to His Highness's return, and, moreover, added that orders had been given to all departments of the Egyptian Government in any way concerned with the mule service to give every assistance in their power. In the course of conversation the Viceroy stated it was his intention in about three weeks to send 10,000 men to his Abyssinian frontier, in order to protect his own territory and subjects from the incursions and excesses that might be anticipated from the condition of Abyssinia during war.

After leaving the Viceroy, and having previously examined all probable sites, the Alexandrian depôt was fixed at the Gabary on the outskirt of the city, where there is shade and water for the mules, short and direct communication with the railway wharf, where leave has been given to land the mules, and a disused siding in the grounds, but in working order, where the animals, their stores, and parties in charge, may be loaded on trucks for transit by railway to Suez.

The buildings placed at our disposal, a sort of wing of the now dismantled palace, is sufficient to quarter the detachments, and provide offices and storage for all the requirements of the mule transport service, and the Viceroy has repaired and whitewashed the buildings to fit them for our occupation at his own expense.

In addition, I have secured the promise of very large storage room from the railway authorities (as they state free of charge), in the event of the paragraph in my instructions relative to storage being intended to warn me that other stores not connected with the mules may be consigned to me, the latter portion of the paragraph being capable of being so interpreted, and in a country like this it is necessary to be prepared on all points. Moreover, no expense has been incurred.

These storehouses are very extensive, are close to the wharf near the railway, and would hold the stores of an army.

The surplus compressed hay will be stored at the Gabary, where also will be placed the stores of the mule transport service.

The detachment Military Train, which embarked at Southampton on the 4th instant, landed here yesterday, and are quartered at the Gabary, where the buildings had been prepared and fitted for their reception with wooden stretchers, bedding suited to the climate, large earthenware jars for ablution, &c.

Arrangements have been made with the Prussian hospital for the reception of any of our Non-commissioned Officers or men who may fall sick, at the rate of 3s. a day, which is increased to 5s. if the case requires special attendance in a separate ward. The establishment, as may be inferred from these rates, is not self-supporting. I have inspected it thoroughly; it is well conducted and organized under European medical men and some German Sisters of Charity who devote themselves to the duties of the hospital. The Maltese, Spanish, and other attendants attached to the mules will be treated when necessary in the European hospital.

The soldiers at the Gabary will be visited once a week by a medical man in practice in the city, who will also be available in case of accident, or any sudden attack of illness.

With respect to that portion of my supplementary instructions to submit a fair and liberal commuted rate in lieu of rations in kind, Assistant Commissary-General Robinson and myself have been engaged in obtaining information as to prices from all sources, including the British Consular authorities, and we will not be prepared to submit a final rate for a day or two. The sum will probably range between 3s. 6d. and a dollar for the actual cost of provisions, exclusive of fuel, light, cooking utensils, crockery, &c. The basis of the ration to consist of 1½ lbs. of bread, 1 lb. of meat, and 1 quart of good beer—it is very unadvisable to issue spirits of any kind.

With reference to your injunctions "to exercise the strictest economy consistent with efficiency," I have to assure you that no care or exertion will be wanting on my part, and I am confident, from my own personal knowledge of Assistant Commissary-General Robinson, that that excellent and experienced financial officer will work energetically in keeping the expenditure within proper bounds. The expenditure, however, will be very considerable.

The rate of exchange in Egypt is so unfavourable that Mr. Robinson, after consulting with me, has arranged by telegraph with Her Majesty's Treasury that the necessary funds for our expenditure are to be sent in gold from England, and in the meantime only the sums absolutely required will be obtained by bills.

The depôt arrangements at Alexandria being complete, I am about proceeding this afternoon to Cairo, *en route* to Suez, whither Mr. Reade will accompany me, furnished with an order to the Governor at Suez to point out any available sites for the depôt, and to allot such ground as I may select.

Tentage for the Officers and men to be stationed at Suez has been ordered through the Consuls to be prepared at Cairo, but, as the weather at Suez is now excessively hot, I intend to detain the detachment in Alexandria until it becomes necessary to send them to Suez to prepare for the first lot of mules.

The men will thus remain under a roof as long as the service will admit.

Since my arrival here I have been gathering as much information as possible with reference to the kind of mule required for Abyssinia.

The opinion of the Egyptian ministers and other officers is unanimously in favour of the Syrian mule when contrasted with the Spanish mule. Raghib Pacha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, one of the ablest men in this country, told me, from his own knowledge, that during an expedition of Said Pacha's, the late Viceroy, to Soudan, the Syrian mules stood the climate, whilst of the Spanish mules 30 per cent. died.

From offers that have been made, I am satisfied that at least 2,000 mules could be obtained from Syria by the native dealers principally resident in Cairo, and delivered at Suez for about 25*l.* per mule, but it would require from 8 to 10 weeks to carry out the transaction, and as time is made the important point in the present service, the proposals could not be entertained; but if the Abyssinian expedition is a longer affair than is anticipated, and a further supply of mules is required, it would be an efficient and economical source of supply for any number of mules demanded by the Indian Government in excess of the present order. The transaction would, however, require to be arranged with great care and judgment, so as to exclude the mixture of Levantine mercantile agency in the business.

With respect to the transit of the mules through Egypt to Suez, it is at present purposely kept an open question whether they will be sent by railway, by the Suez Canal, or march across the country, until I can obtain an official answer to my official request, through the Consul-General, as to the terms upon which the railway purposes to carry the mules to Suez. From all I can gather it will be probably under 2*l.* a head, and will be inclusive of a charge for landing the mules at Alexandria in some Government horse boats now in the arsenal, an arrangement which, if it can be carried out, will be better and cheaper than hiring barges from private individuals.

The communications with the officials of the Suez Canal Company in this country have satisfied me that, although there is 18 feet of water in Port Said, the transit of any considerable number of mules could not be depended upon with sufficient certainty as to time, the risk would be considerable, and the collective expenses for feeding and attending upon the mules during the transit greater than those of the conveyance either by railway or of the march by land.

As to the march across country, it will only be resorted to in the event of any failure on the part of the railway. The placing food and forage at so many stations, the increased number of men in charge, and risk of loss on the road, would involve far greater expenditure than even the highest rate the railway could impose; and whatever difficulties may arise, I trust that, if the animals cannot be carried to Suez, they will be at least conveyed as far as Cairo by railway, from whence the march across the desert can be made with more facility than that from Alexandria to Cairo.

The railway authorities are aware that the Suez Canal Company have made an offer to convey the mules, and also are aware that, if driven to it, the mules can march.

Mr. Reade is of opinion that it will be some days yet before I receive a reply as to the railway charge, and principally because the Viceroy will probably fix the rate himself. His Highness has most liberally allowed the baggage of Officers and men to be landed free of duty, and I have had a communication through Mr. Reade that no duty will be charged on the mules, either on landing, passing through, or on leaving Egypt.

The quarantine between Malta and Alexandria is an unfortunate complication, but until I receive a list of the seven steam transports, their dates of sailing, and their respective destinations, I am unable to give any directions to the purchasing parties at their various stations.

I hope to receive this information by the mail that left London on the 11th instant, now due here, but which is not yet reported as in sight.*

I leave this evening for Cairo, accompanied by Colonel Ross, to be present to-morrow morning, at the request of the Acting Consul-General, at a formal public reception to be held at Cairo by the Viceroy. Mr. Reade placed some stress upon the point of my attending upon this occasion. As soon as the reception is over we go on to Suez to fix the site for the depôt there, and from thence return to Alexandria without delay.

I have, &c.,

J. CLARK KENNEDY,

Colonel Commandant, Military Train.

No. 521.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 27th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that Messrs. Heinke have been informed that it is not considered necessary to provide diving apparatus for the use of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

* Note.—The information could only be sent by yesterday's mail, having been received from the Admiralty only on that day.—War Office, September 27th.

No. 522.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
28th September 1867.

Send overland, immediately, two tons of McDougall's deodorizing powder, for depôt on seaboard in Abyssinia.

No. 523.

Telegram from Captain WILLOUGHBY, Alexandria, to the Military Secretary, India Office, 28th September 1867.

In reply to
No. 496.

Telegraph *via* Malta. Your telegram three days reaching. Local assistance only required, which is provided. Consign stores to me at Alexandria for Suez; I shall be there at intervals, when I can leave Alexandria.

No. 524.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 28th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that he approves of the provision of 1,000 rounds of 7-pounder double shell for the Abyssinian expedition, in accordance with the report of the Ordnance Select Committee, the quantity of ammunition already sanctioned being proportionately reduced. No. 514.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 525.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Captain J. WILLOUGHBY, R.N., Alexandria.

Sir,

India Office, 28th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 18th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that all expenses incurred in consequence of the Abyssinian expedition should be recorded by you in a separate account. Nos. 518 & 519.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 526.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 28th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a copy of two letters which have been received from Captain Willoughby, respecting the transport of mules and stores through Egypt for the use of the Abyssinian Force. Nos. 518 & 519.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 527.

Mr. JOHN LAIRD, M.P., to the Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Birkenhead, 28th September 1867.

Several extensive shipowners in Liverpool and Birkenhead have called upon me to state that they are informed by telegram the Government in Bombay are refusing to charter iron sailing ships as transports for the Abyssinian expedition.

(4260.)

G g

Some of the iron ships that have been tendered are, from the information given to me, particularly well qualified for transports, being first-class ships, and having good, well-ventilated accommodation.

I had a correspondence on the subject of the employment of iron sailing ships as transports with the India Board in 1862, commencing with my letter of 14th March 1862, and concluding with Mr. T. G. Baring's letter of 20th May 1862, copy of which I annex.

I trust that, on inquiry into this matter, you may decide that the arrangement come to with the approval of the Horse Guards in 1862 may be carried out in reference to the transport vessels required for the Abyssinian war, as excluding iron vessels will narrow the competition and must inevitably cause great additional expense to the Government.

Should you concur in the views I have stated, may I beg to suggest that your decision should be telegraphed to the Bombay Government.

I am, &c.,
JOHN LAIRD.

No. 528.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 28th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you, with a view to its being laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham, respecting the staff necessary for telegraphic and signalling service with the Abyssinian expedition, and covering a nominal list of the Non-commissioned Officers and men, including those selected from the Royal Engineer Train.

The men composing this detachment have been medically examined and found fit for the proposed service, and they will be held in readiness pending further instructions.

In forwarding Colonel Simmons's report to this Office, the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has called Sir John Pakington's attention to the proposals of the Director in the 4th and 5th paragraphs of his letter, and strongly recommended that the necessary authority may be given, as early as possible, for carrying these proposals into effect.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 528.

The Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham to the Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Engineers.

Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham,
24th September 1867.

Sir,

* Lieutenant Morgan.

Lieutenant Puzey.

1 Sergeant, 24 rank and file, Telegraphers.

1 Sergeant, 9 rank and file, Royal Engineer Train, for signalling.

I have the honour to forward the enclosed list of a detachment selected for service in Abyssinia, consisting as per margin.*

2. The party of men selected as telegraphers have been trained in the telegraph school, and the remainder, belonging to the Royal Engineer Train, are partially trained in signalling.

3. The whole are now under instruction in the telegraph school, being made as perfect as possible in the work they will have to do.

4. I hope to have a complete set of signalling apparatus ready to-day, after which I propose to order immediately the number of sets which will be required for the whole party of signallers going to Abyssinia, which, as no complete equipment has ever before been fitted up for service, I propose to have sent to this establishment in order that the men may practise with them under all the varying circumstances which the broken country in this neighbourhood will permit, and that they may be fully instructed in the care and use of the instruments which will be confided to their charge.

5. As some of these men are not so fully instructed as I should desire, I have to recommend that they be allowed to remain here as long as is consistent with their arriving at the port at which the expedition is to disembark in time to commence the duties which will devolve upon them.

6. The two Officers selected are also studying in the schools and getting all the information they can to make themselves as useful as possible. I should propose that Lieutenant Morgan be specially intrusted with the signal party, but I have every hope that each will be found fully competent to perform the duties of the other in case of need, and I have no doubt they will both be found excellent Officers in whatever capacity they may be employed.

Size rolls will be forwarded to-morrow.

I have, &c.,
J. L. A. SIMMONS, Colonel, R.E.,
Director.

Enclosure 2 in No. 528.

Medical Examination Report of Non-commissioned Officers and Sappers under orders for Abyssinia.

Regimental Number.	Rank.	Names.	Company.	Remarks.
5,619	Sergeant -	P. Walsh -	40	Fit.
4,571	Corporal -	R. Langstaff -	35	
6,434	" -	G. Morrison -	36	
4,764	" -	W. W. Bell -	10	
8,328	2d Corporal	William Wilson -	12	
8,101	" -	F. Chesterton -	39	
6,889	" -	A. Scrafield -	35	
6,801	" -	F. Overend -	40	
7,216	" -	R. Jerram -	39	
6,361	" -	G. Hitching -	36	
8,119	" -	G. Nesbet -	37	
7,839	" -	G. Rhodes -	40	
6,040	" -	C. Gibbs -	37	
5,953	" -	J. Smith -	36	
8,507	Lance-Corporal	G. Edwards -	39	
7,204	" -	W. F. Mant -	40	
4,081	" -	F. Vallet -	10	
6,749	" -	B. Brown -	11	
8,469	Sapper -	W. Sharp -	40	
7,401	" -	J. Smith -	40	
2,207	" -	A. Greig -	38	
8,077	" -	J. Gedder -	21	
5,400	" -	J. Dabriel -	36	Waiting man.
2,520	" -	W. Clarke -	10	
6,735	" -	D. Williamson -	10	
7,838	" -	H. Clatworthy -	36	

J. BALFOUR COCKBURN, M.D.,
Surgeon, R.E.

Enclosure 3 in No. 528.

Chatham, 21st September 1867.

List of Non-commissioned Officers and Men, A. Troop, Royal Engineer Train, proposed for service in Abyssinia.

Regimental Number.	Rank.	Names.	Remarks.
7,960	Sergeant -	Dawson, Thomas -	
2,971	Corporal -	Pullman, William -	
2,971	2d-Corporal	West, Harry W. -	
7,659	Lance-Corporal	Holloway, John -	
7,652	Sapper -	Purcell, Jabez -	
7,970	" -	Hilton, Charles -	
8,832	" -	Ratcliffe, John -	
7,990	Driver -	Abbott, John -	
7,386	" -	Bailey, Henry -	
3,102	" -	Broughill, David -	
8,523	" -	Swift, Henry -	Waiting man.

J. BALFOUR COCKBURN, M.D.,
Surgeon, R.E.

No. 529.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 28th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed nominal list of the detachment of photographers selected for service with the forces in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 529.

List of a Detachment of Royal Engineers under orders for Abyssinia

20th September 1867.

Regimental Number.	Rank.	Names.	Company.	Remarks.
4,037	Sergeant - -	John Harrold - -	35	
6,818	Corporal - -	Thomas Astridge - -	10	
7,541	2d-Corporal - -	Samuel Townsend - -	36	
7,229	Lance-Corporal - -	R. Fisher - -	36	
8,605	" - -	E. Blanchflower - -	40	
5,040	Sapper - -	W. Robertson - -	36	
7,444	" - -	T. Eadon - -	10	
3,910	" - -	C. Marshall - -	10	

No. 530.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 28th September 1867.

No. 385.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, forwarding copy of a letter from the Italian Minister expressing the desire of his Government that two Officers of the Italian Army may be permitted to accompany the staff of the Abyssinian expedition, and requesting Sir Stafford Northcote's opinion as to the answer which should be returned to it.

2. In reply, I am desired to state that, considering the peculiar nature of the service in which the Abyssinian force is likely to be engaged, Sir Stafford Northcote is very desirous of restricting it, as far as possible, to the smallest possible number of actual combatants.

3. He will, however, offer no objection, should Lord Stanley consider it desirable, to a compliance with this application, and will communicate the names of the two Italian Officers, who it is proposed should accompany the army, to Sir R. Napier, from whom he has no doubt they will receive every attention.

4. These Officers, should be informed, however, that it is not probable Sir R. Napier will require their personal services, and they should be warned of the character of the country in which the force may be engaged, and of the necessity of equipping themselves as lightly as possible, as it will, no doubt, be found necessary to restrict the baggage of individual Officers within very narrow limits.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 531.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Madrid, September 24, 1867.

No. 130.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Murray's despatch of the 30th of August, by which I am instructed to afford assistance to the gentlemen who have come to this country in order to purchase mules for the use of Her Majesty's Government, in view of the intended expedition to Abyssinia.

Apprehending that the local authorities, if not the Spanish Government itself, might oppose some difficulty or delay to the proceedings of the officers and gentlemen in question, the object of which had been noticed in the Spanish newspapers, were they to be entered upon without any communication on the subject having been previously made to the Spanish Government, I thought it expedient to inform Señor Arrazola of the matter, and to inquire whether Her Catholic Majesty's Government felt any objection to what was proposed, and whether they could afford any facilities for the execution of the plan.

Señor Arrazola replied that on the part of the Spanish Government there would not be any objection, but that he was glad I had communicated with him, inasmuch as it was not impossible that in some quarter doubts might be felt upon the subject, and that he would now be in a position at once to set aside any obstacle or delay which might occur or be presented by the provincial authorities.

At his Excellency's suggestion I accordingly addressed to him the note of which I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy, together with translation of his Excellency's reply.

I have, &c.,
JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 531.

Sir J. CRAMPTON to Señor ARRAZOLA.

M. le Ministre,

San Ildefonso, September 4, 1867.

Her Majesty's Government being about to send an expedition to Abyssinia to effect a release of the British subjects who are detained there in captivity by King Theodore, it has been judged expedient that the force to be employed should be supplied with a number of mules as beasts of burthen, well adapted to the climate and nature of the service; and with this view Her Majesty's Government have it in contemplation to despatch to Spain officers charged to effect if possible the purchase of the required number of these animals, and to transport them to Alexandria.

I would consequently now request of your Excellency to be good enough to inform me whether any objection is felt by Her Catholic Majesty's Government to this plan, and whether the Spanish Government would be disposed, on the other hand, to give such instructions to the provincial authorities as might tend to obviate any difficulty or delay which might oppose itself to its being effectually carried into execution.

I avail, &c.,
JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 531.

Señor ARRAZOLA to Sir J. CRAMPTON.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, September 24, 1867.

As I had the honour to state to your Excellency verbally at San Ildefonso, the Minister of Public Works (to whom I hastened to give information of the wishes expressed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and set forth in your Excellency's confidential note of the 4th instant, concerning the purchase in Spain of a certain number of mules destined for the Abyssinian campaign) has replied to the effect that Her Majesty's Government will raise no objection to the effecting of the said purchase. He further requests me to inform your Excellency that if the persons commissioned to effect the said purchase should meet with any obstacles to the same on the part of the authorities of Spanish towns, and your Excellency will be good enough to notify it in due time, the proper remedy will be applied.

With reference to the notes which your Excellency addressed to me on the 20th and 22nd instant on the same subject, I can only state that they were forwarded to the Minister of Finance without loss of time, and that I will communicate his reply to your Excellency as soon as I receive it.

I avail, &c.,
L. ARRAZOLA.

No. 532.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received September 30.)

My Lord,

Madrid, September 27, 1867.

I have the honour to enclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a telegram which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Valencia, reporting that the engagement of muleteers by the officers employed by Her Majesty's Government for the purchase of mules in Spain for the Abyssinian expedition had been prohibited by Royal Order.

As Her Majesty's Legation have received no instructions to communicate with the Spanish Government on this subject, and as it appears from the enclosed copy of a despatch from Consul Barrie that reports have been circulated of the intention of the British Government to enlist an auxiliary force, it is evident that the susceptibility of the Spanish Government has been aroused; and, under these circumstances, I deemed it expedient to address a note, copy of which is herewith enclosed, to the Spanish Minister

for Foreign Affairs, explaining what I conceive to be the nature of the proceeding, and expressing a hope that the Spanish Government will not oppose the arrangements for the engagement of muleteers.

I have, &c.,
L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Enclosure 1 in No. 532.

Telegram from the Vice-Consul at Valencia to the Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid.

Valencia, September 26, 1867.

This Commission has received telegram from War Office informing that transport has sailed from London to Valencia direct.

Captain-General has Royal Order to refuse engagement of muleteers. Your interference is earnestly requested.

Enclosure 2 in No. 532.

The Vice-Consul at Valencia to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

Sir,

Alicante, September 18, 1867.

I have just received a telegram from the Acting Vice-Consul at Valencia, stating that the "Civil Governor refuses to allow the engagement of muleteers to proceed out of Spain, and will give no reason. A transport daily expected at Valencia. Some arrangement urgent."

The officer commissioned here has been telegraphed to the same purport by the officer at Valencia.

The Civil Governor here told me confidentially yesterday morning that he had received information that the English officers were recruiting men to form a force of 3,000 auxiliaries, which he could not believe; when I at once explained to him that all the officers required were at most 10 men for every 100 mules, which, for the 500 to be purchased here, would make 50 muleteers, who might all be inspected by the Spanish police before embarkation; adding that the same took place during the Crimean war, and many of the muleteers who embarked on that occasion were now offering their services, especially as the duty now required is only to accompany the mules to Alexandria, from whence they will be returned within a month at the expense of the British Government.

The Governor took a note of this, and I do not anticipate the slightest difficulty in this matter here.

Although it is probable that your Excellency will have been applied to by the Commission at Valencia, I think it my duty to report the circumstances to you, in order that any doubts entertained by the Civil Governor of Valencia may be removed by the Spanish Government.

I have, &c.,
B. BARRIE.

Enclosure 3 in No. 532.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid to Señor ARRAZOLA.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, September 26, 1867.

I have received information from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Valencia that permission to engage muleteers to accompany the mules purchased by the officers commissioned by the British Government for that purpose has been refused by the Spanish Government.

As some misapprehension may exist as to the nature of the engagement of these men, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that it in no wise bears the character of enlistment; and that, furthermore, the proceeding was not objected to by the Spanish Government in the year 1854, when similar arrangements were made by the British Government for the purchase of mules for the war in the Crimea.

Under these circumstances I trust that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty will see fit to permit of the engagement of muleteers under similar conditions.

I have, &c.,
L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 533.

The Acting Consul-General at Beyrout to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received September 30.)

My Lord,

Beyrout, September 17, 1867.

I have the honour to report to your Lordship that this morning Captain C. W. McNeill, accompanied by Mr. G. Fleming and Lieutenant Brace, accompanied by

Mr. Mantle, arrived here in the Russian steamer from Alexandria. Captain McNeill has shown me your Lordship's circular instructions in regard to the purchase of mules, No. 113. to which I shall pay the strictest attention.

At the same time Captain McNeill delivered me a letter from Colonel Kennedy, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy, enclosing a letter of credit for 2,000*l.* on account of the expenses to be incurred here, according to the tenor of the said instructions.

On Friday last, in consequence of a telegram which I received from Mr. Acting Consul-General Reade, of Alexandria, I came from Damascus to Beyrout to meet the officer above alluded to.

Lieutenant Brace and Mr. Mantle will proceed to Alexandretta to-morrow in the Russian steamer.

I have, &c.,
E. T. ROGERS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 533.

Colonel KENNEDY to the Acting Consul-General at Beyrout.

Sir,

Alexandria, September 12, 1867.

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying letter, which will be delivered to you by Captain McNeill of the Military Train, an officer deputed to purchase mules for Her Majesty's service, and have to request that you will be so good as to make the necessary payments on account of mules purchased, and of the other expenses which may be incurred by Captain McNeill in carrying out the instructions he has received from the Secretary for War, with which instructions Captain McNeill will make you acquainted prior to your being called upon to make any payment.

A credit of 2,000*l.* has been given you, which will be increased if necessary.

The cholera having appeared in Malta renders the date doubtful when the Commissariat Officer from that station, detailed for the financial duties, will be able to join at Beyrout, and this renders it necessary for me to request your temporary assistance.

I have, &c.,
J. CLARK KENNEDY.

Enclosure 2 in No. 533.

Acting Commissary-General ROBINSON to Colonel KENNEDY.

Sir,

Alexandria, September 12, 1867.

I have procured a letter of credit for 2,000*l.* in favour of Edward Thomas Rogers, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Beyrout, on the Imperial Ottoman Bank there, to enable the Consul to make any payments Captain McNeill may authorize, until such times as Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Casdani may join him to conduct such duties.

It will be requisite that you request the Acting Consul to keep me advised of the several drafts he may draw against this credit, rendering me authenticated vouchers for the same, countersigned by Captain McNeill, and in case of the above amount being insufficient, Captain McNeill should be instructed to make application to me through you for a further credit.

I have, &c.,
HENRY ROBINSON.

No. 534.

The Consul at Smyrna to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received September 30.)

My Lord,

Smyrna, September 18, 1867.

In acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 2nd instant, with No. 168. the copy of your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd September annexed, the original having been received by me on the 4th instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I lost no time in ascertaining the amount of mules of the description given which could be obtained within this district, and the result was that above 2,000 could be procured within two months.

On the 14th instant I received a despatch from the War Office, acquainting me that the order for mules at Smyrna had been rescinded, and requesting me to acquaint the

officers sent to Smyrna for the purchase of the mules with the determination of the War Department.

No. 118. I have also the honour to acknowledge the receipt of despatch of the 29th August upon the above service.

I have, &c.,
ROB. WM. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 535.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 30th September 1867.

No. 451. With reference to my letter of the 21st instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that the covers and packing cases therein referred to may be forwarded to the India Stores Depôt, Belvedere Road, Lambeth.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 536.

In reply to
No. 389.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
30th September 1867.

The following stores will leave England about the dates specified:—Five or six hundred tons, consisting of one mountain battery, ammunition, forage, and pack-saddles, 12th October; second mountain battery, with equipment, by "Serapis," 16th October; eight hundred tons, pack-saddles, forage, and cooking ranges, 25th October. They will be consigned to Captain Willoughby at Alexandra for Suez, whence you should fetch them.

No. 537.

In reply to
No. 387.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
30th September 1867.

My own opinion is that a demand for the release of the prisoners should be made at once. Hitherto the King has been requested and coaxed, but no demand has been made, and, if it be made, he may give them up. The matter has, however, been left by you to Sir Robert Napier, who thinks it would be premature, and I can only give advice. The Commander-in-Chief, therefore, requests me to send you the following message:—"The letter from Lord Stanley is virtually a declaration of war. Is the peremptory demand for the release of the prisoners urgent, so long before the advance, and the message disclaiming all annexation?"

No. 538.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant ST. JOHN, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 30th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that it has been determined to attach to the Abyssinian force a small party of trained photographers, consisting of a Non-commissioned officer and six men of the Royal Engineers, who will proceed to join the force under your orders, pending instructions from the Officer commanding the force as to their disposal.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 539.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 30th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that a No. 508. copy thereof has been forwarded to the War Office, all matters connected with the No. 552. purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition having been undertaken by that department.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

No. 540.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay.

Military, No. 124.

Sir,

India Office, 30th September 1867.

In continuation of my Despatch dated the 16th of September, No. 119, I proceed No. 376. to communicate to you the various measures which have been adopted, since that date, in regard to the expedition which is about to be sent to Abyssinia.

2. On the 20th of September your letter of the 24th of August, No. 63, was received; No. 447. and it has been transmitted to the War Office, for the information of that Department No. 504. and of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The strength of the force which it is proposed to send is, you state, under discussion with the Commander-in-Chief. You will, no doubt, apprise me as soon as you have determined whether the propositions of his Excellency should be adopted. I am prepared to sanction the despatch of such a force as you may decide upon, after careful consideration in communication with Sir Robert Napier; and I have only now to observe, that I concur generally in the view of your Government that the force of Europeans, and especially of European Cavalry, should be as small as is consistent with prudence. In considering this point much weight is due to the opinion of the distinguished and experienced Officer who has been selected for the command.

3. With reference to the time at which the expedition will start, you observe that, looking to the difficulty of finding transport animals and the quantity of supplies which have to be collected, it is not probable that the force will be able to leave Bombay till toward the close of the year.

4. While it is of the utmost importance that no avoidable delay should occur, in order that the operations may, if possible, be brought to a close before the commencement of the rainy season in Abyssinia, it is equally desirable that the force should be in all respects properly equipped for the service which it will have to perform.

5. The arrangements made in this country for supplying you with the requisite amount of tonnage for the transport of the force have already been communicated to you; and I trust that, with the vessels which you have been able to engage at Bombay, they will be found sufficient for the purpose. In connexion with this subject, I have to acquaint you that three steam launches will be sent out for facilitating the disembarkation of the troops.

6. The list of stores despatched for the expedition (which forms an enclosure to this Despatch) will apprise you of the extent to which, up to this time, your requirements have been complied with.

7. You were informed, in the 2d paragraph of my Despatch, No. 119, of the arrange- No. 376. ments which had been made to supply coal at Bombay and Aden. On the receipt of your letter dated the 24th of August, No. 61, enclosing a special indent for coal for the purposes No. 445. of the expedition, tenders were invited for the supply of the smithy coal and coke, which had not been previously obtained. A further communication on this subject will be made to you hereafter.

8. In reference to the cattle required for transport, you will have learnt, from the 10th No. 193. paragraph of my Despatch, No. 107, the measures which were being taken to supply mules from the countries bordering on the Mediterranean; and my telegram of the 24th No. 479. of September will have apprised you that about 5,000 mules would probably be sent to Suez by the beginning of November. If you require more, I am desirous of being at once informed of the additional number to be obtained. The enclosed copies of two Nos. 467 and letters which have been received from the War Office will show the progress which 520.

- No. 500. has hitherto been made in the collection of the mules; and you have been informed, by my telegram of the 26th instant, that about 800 of these animals might be expected at Alexandria on the 13th of October, and that an average supply of 60 per week would be sent to Egypt from Italy, the first departure from Brindisi being on the 30th of September.
- No. 376. 9. As regards the point at which the force should land on its arrival at the scene of operations, it is desirable to avoid any risk of interference with the Egyptian garrison at Massowah; but you will have learnt, by the enclosures to my Despatch of the 16th instant, that permission has been obtained for the passage of the army through Egyptian territory; and you will, therefore, be able, without risk of offence to the Government of that country, to make such arrangements for the landing of the troops as may seem most desirable from the nature of the ground or anchorage.
- No. 488. 10. I am glad to perceive that you do not anticipate difficulty in supplying the necessary reinforcements from Aden and India, in the event of its being requisite to furnish additional troops after the original force has been despatched.
- No. 388. 11. You will see, by the enclosed copy of a letter from the War Office, dated the 25th of September, that the three hospital ships which sailed about the 30th instant have not been provided either with ice or ice-making machines; and I have, therefore, to request that such measures as the Principal Medical Officer of the expeditionary force may deem necessary may be taken for ensuring a supply of ice from Bombay or Aden, for the treatment of the sick on board those vessels. I trust, also, that such provision as is practicable has been made to meet the requirements of the general body of troops with regard to this great luxury, which will, in the climate of the Red Sea, be almost essential to their comfort and health.
- No. 386. 12. With reference to your telegram, dated the 17th of September, requesting that the 500 McGwire hammocks already under provision might be despatched overland to Suez, I have to acquaint you that they are packed, and will be forwarded thither by the earliest opportunity.
- No. 386. 13. Care has been taken to comply with the request contained in your further telegram of the same date, that the weight of packages to be carried on the backs of the mules should not, if possible, exceed 80 lbs. The Snider ammunition is packed in boxes containing each 500 rounds, and weighing about 60 lbs., the dimensions of each box being 16 by 8½ by 7½ inches.
- Enclosure in No. 514. 14. With the view of increasing the efficiency of the mountain batteries, I have sanctioned the provision of 1,000 rounds of double shell, in accordance with a report of the Ordnance Select Committee, of which I enclose a copy.
- No. 376. 15. I am in communication with Sir Roderick Murchison on the subject of the desirability of attaching two or three scientific gentlemen to the force, for the purpose of adding to our knowledge of the nature and resources of Abyssinia. With a similar view, a Non-commissioned Officer and six men of the Royal Engineers, who have been trained as photographers, will accompany the expedition, under the command of Lieutenant St. John (pending the instructions of the Officer commanding the force as to their disposal), in order to photograph sketches and plans made by the staff Officers of the army.
- No. 376. 16. In continuation of the papers which were forwarded to you with my Despatch of the 16th of September, I transmit copies of letters from the under-mentioned persons, respecting plans or inventions which it has been suggested may be of service to the expedition. I have determined, at any rate for the present, to take no steps respecting the laying down of a railway from the point of disembarkation :—
- Enclosures in Nos. 177 and 217. No. 252. Two letters from Sir John Macneill, as to the construction of a railway.
 Enclosures in No. 358. Letter and estimate of Mr. Brassey, as to the cost of such an undertaking.
 Letter from Mr. Prosser, respecting line of wooden rail.
 Letters from Mr. Curtis, as to a railroad.
 Letter from Mr. Tucker, on the same subject.
 Letters from Messrs. McDougall, respecting the use of their disinfectant soap.
 Letters from Surgeon-Major Wyatt, respecting the use of an antiscorbutic mixture prepared by Messrs. Savory and Moore.
- No. 395. 17. In reference to the telegram of the 18th of September, from the Deputy Quartermaster-General of your army to the Military Secretary of this Office, I have to acquaint you that Captain Moore has accepted the offer of the Commander-in-Chief to attach him to the Intelligence Department of the Abyssinian force, and that a passage has been granted to him at the public expense. A communication on this subject was made to you by telegraph on the 24th instant.
- No. 481.

18. I forward a copy of correspondence which has passed with the Foreign Office, Nos. 385 and 530. with reference to the wish expressed by the Italian Government that two officers of the Italian Army may be permitted to accompany the Staff of the Abyssinian expedition. You will inform Sir Robert Napier that Her Majesty's Government will be glad if it is in his power to show any attention to these officers.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 549.

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition.

No. 3.

India Office, 2d October 1867.

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
Blue serge banyans -	4,000	Liverpool	Bombay -	"England" -	1867. 12th September.	
Flannel shirts -	4,000					
Neck comforters -	4,000					
Jersey shirts -	4,000					
Worst stockings pairs	4,000					
Nightcaps -	4,000					
Gloves - pairs	4,000					
Great coats -	500					
Boots - pairs	12,000					
Boot laces, spare -	12,000					
Mittens -	4,000	London -	Aden or Massowah.	"Golden Fleece" -	27th September.	
Blankets -	12,000	Liverpool	Bombay -	"Queen" -	14th September.	
Salt beef, Admiralty lbs.	70,000	"	"	"City of Manchester" -	18th September.	
" pork, " "	35,000	"	"	"	"	
" beef, Powell & Sons " "	2,016	London -	Aden or Massowah.	"Golden Fleece" -	27th September.	
" pork, " "	954	"	"	"	"	
Essence of beef " - ¼ pints	2,400	Liverpool	Bombay -	"City of Manchester" -	18th September.	
Preserved potatoes - lbs.	15,000	London -	Aden or Massowah.	"Mauritius" -	27th September.	
Compressed vegetables -	15,000	"	"	1,400 lbs., "Mauritius" -	"	Balance of vegetables will be sent to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria, from England about middle of October.
Desiccated milk - doz.	50	"	"	"Mauritius" -	"	
Compressed forage tons	500	Liverpool	Bombay -	63 tons, "England" -	12th September	200 tons about middle of October to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria; balance about end of October to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria.
		London -	Aden or Massowah.	11½ " "Queen" - 150 " "Golden Fleece" -	14th September 27th September	
Compressed hay and forage.	393	-	-	-	-	Will be sent to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria, beginning or middle of November.
Waterproof sheets -	30,000	-	Bombay -	12,000, "Queen" -	14th September.	
			"	7,000, "England" -	12th September.	
			Aden or Massowah.	11,000, "Mauritius" -	27th September.	
Portable cooking ranges, Warren's pattern.	40	-	-	-	-	A portion in middle, and the rest, if possible, at end of October to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria.
Perkins's portable ovens, 2 large, 1 small -	3	2 Liverpool	Bombay -	1 per "England" -	12th September	The oven, per "Golden Fleece," is half the size and weight of the other two.
		1 London	Aden or Massowah.	1 per "Queen" -	14th September	
				1 per "Golden Fleece" -	27th September	
Waterproof covers -	2,100	Liverpool	Bombay -	1,350, "England" -	12th September.	
		London -	Aden or Massowah.	750, "Mauritius" -	27th September.	
Bell tents, double, with spare poles, &c.	323	Liverpool	Bombay -	"Queen" -	14th September.	
Bell tents, single, with spare poles, &c.	677	"	"	"	"	
Hospital marquee, with spare poles, &c.	50	"	"	"	"	
Yeast, malt - lbs.	3,600	London -	Aden or Massowah.	"Queen of the South" -	27th September.	
" hops -	500	"	"	"	"	
Filters, portable -	5,000	"	"	"Mauritius" -	"	
Maltese carts -	400	"	"	100, "Golden Fleece" -	"	
				140, "Mauritius" -	"	
				160, "Queen of the South" -	"	
Grease for ditto - lbs.	2,800	"	"	"Golden Fleece" -	"	About 400 pack-saddles will be sent to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria, middle of October, and further quantities as they are completed.
Pack-saddles -	5,000	-	-	-	-	

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition—*cont.*

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
Harness - sets	1,800	London	Aden or Massowah.	204, "Golden Fleece"	27th September	The balances of these articles will be despatched from England to Suez, <i>viâ</i> Alexandria, during the present month (October).
Traces, short - pairs	900	"	"	198, "Mauritius"	"	
Whips, driver's -	400	"	"	804, "Queen of the South"	"	
Rifles, Snider, Infantry -	4,000	Liverpool	Bombay -	102, "Golden Fleece"	"	
Carbines, Snider, Cavalry	200	"	"	99, "Mauritius"	"	
" " Artillery	800	"	"	402, "Queen of the South"	"	
Scabbards, snapeaps, wrenches, and small-arm materials for repair of arms - cases	44	"	"	34, "Golden Fleece"	"	Will be sent to Suez, <i>viâ</i> Alexandria, when received from War Office.
Cartridges, Snider, ball, service - rounds	2,500,000	"	"	33, "Mauritius"	"	
Do. do., reserve "	2,420,000	"	"	135, "Queen of the South"	"	
Do. do., blank "	20,800	Liverpool	Bombay -	2,000, "Queen"	14th September.	
Forges, armourer's, Dodd's	6	"	"	2,114, "England"	12th September.	
Tools, " special cases	12	"	"	" " "Queen"	"	
Mountain batteries (steel)	2	"	"	" " "England"	14th September.	One battery and ammunition will be sent by H.M.S. "Serapis" to Alexandria about 16th October; one battery and ammunition by freight vessel to Alexandria for Suez about the middle of October.
Ammunition for ditto, rounds	12,000	"	"	6, "Queen"	12th September.	
Do., additional for 7-pr. mountain guns, for each gun - rounds	500	"	"	6, "England"	12th September.	
Rockets, Hale's, 6-pounder	300	"	"	"	"	
Troughs for ditto -	12	"	"	"	"	
Panniers " -	12	"	"	"	"	
Pack-saddles " -	12	"	"	"	"	Half by H.M.S. "Serapis," and half will be sent to Suez, <i>viâ</i> Alexandria, about middle of October.
Tubes, friction, copper	360	"	"	"	"	
Lanyards, friction tube	24	"	"	"	"	
Magnetic field instruments	4	"	"	"	"	
Copper wire, B. G., } miles	350	"	"	"	"	
85 standard -	"	"	"	"	"	
Drums for winding	175	"	"	"	"	Will be sent overland to Suez about end of October or November.
Hooper's core, 20 } miles	50	"	"	"	"	
diameter -	"	"	"	"	"	
Wire, iron, No. 8 } cwt.	4	"	"	"	"	
gauge -	"	"	"	"	"	
Insulators, in cases of 200 each	2,000	"	"	"	"	
Relay instruments, recording	8	"	"	"	"	Will be sent overland to Suez about end of October or November.
Field instruments, recording	12	"	"	"	"	
"Marie Davy's" Elements, 12 in case	12	"	"	"	"	
"Marie Davy's" Elements, 24 in case	8	"	"	"	"	
Cases containing earth plate, &c.	12	"	"	"	"	
Cases containing repairing instruments	4	"	"	"	"	
Insulators -	2,000	"	"	"	"	Will be sent overland to Suez about end of October or November.
"Marie Davy's" Elements, 8 in a case	8	"	"	"	"	
Galvanometers	2	"	"	"	"	
Morse paper for relay instru-ments	500	"	"	"	"	
Morse paper for field instru-ments	500	"	"	"	"	
Lightning dischargers	4	"	"	"	"	
Protosulphate of mercury, in tins of 5 lbs.	100	"	"	"	"	Will be sent overland to Suez about end of October or November.
Connecting screws	100	"	"	"	"	
Bottles of ink	72	"	"	"	"	
Blocks and tacks, iron - sets	3	"	"	"	"	
Billhooks	50	"	"	"	"	
Axes, American	10	"	"	"	"	
Handies, spare, for axes	20	"	"	"	"	Will be sent overland to Suez about end of October or November.
Borers, earth	6	"	"	"	"	
Scoops	12	"	"	"	"	

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition—*cont.*

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
Hooks for fixing insulators	12	}				{ Will be sent overland to Suez about end of October or November.
Whistles - - -	56					
Clasp knives - - -	25					
Turnscrews - - -	6					
Despatch bags - - -	12					
Two-wheeled barrows - -	12					
Connectors - - -	100					
Tents, bivouac - - -	6					
Tables for ditto - - -	6					
Camp stools for ditto - -	12					
Water bags, india-rubber -	6					
Lamps, globe - - -	20					
Gloves - - - pairs	50					
Iron wire, galvan-ized, in coils of 135 lbs. each - } miles	50					
Stationery and printed forms	Various					
Boat, india-rubber - - -	1	}	Bombay -	By Post - - -	1867. 18th September.	{ A Normandy's apparatus for Aden will be sent out in the course of this month, <i>via</i> Cape. Two were sent in May last. One of these might be used for Abyssinia, and will be replaced from home as soon as possible.
Compasses, pocket - pairs	6					
Field glasses - cases	4					
Clocks, portable - - -	6					
Charts of Red Sea, &c. -	200					
Normandy's condensing apparatus - - -	1					
Adapters fuze, for 12-pounder Armstrong guns for G. Battery at Aden - - -	702					{ Will be sent to Aden by Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer of 4th October.
Bursters, common, filled, for ditto - - -	702					
Fuzes, concussion, for ditto -	702					
Shells, common, for ditto -	702					
Shot, case, for ditto -	283					
Leggings - pairs	4,000	}				{ Will be sent to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria, when received from War Office. Will be sent to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria, middle of October. Will be sent to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria, during October.
McDougall's powder - tons	2					
Ball cartridge, Enfield rifle, '577 - - -	1,400,000					

HENRY C. G. BEDFORD,
For Director General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 540.

Mr. W. PROSSER to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 5, Whitehall, September 21st, 1867.

In my letter of the 19th instant I had the honour to request an interview on the subject of my No. 427. lime light for use in Abyssinia, and I now beg, in obedience to the answer conveyed to me by order of the Secretary of State for War, to bring under your notice my simple, cheap, and effective system of wooden railways, by which all difficulties and impediments from steep gradients or curves are overcome, as well as the want of roads in barren districts.

The cost of laying down a railway where timber abounds would not exceed 200*l.* per mile.

A model could easily be conveyed to the India Office, or submitted to scientific officers at 5, Whitehall, at any time which may be appointed, furnishing at the same time every information which the enclosed papers might fail to give.

I have, &c.,
W. PROSSER.

Enclosure 3 in No. 540.

Mr. J. S. TUCKER to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir, Harbledown, near Canterbury, 3d September 1867.

On the 27th ultimo I addressed a note to Mr. Danvers, of the Indian Railway Department, naming a suggestion that the Hydrographer to the Navy had made to me of the seeming necessity for certain improvements near Massowah Island preparatory to the landing of troops and stores intended

for the Abyssinian expedition, and volunteering to go out and see to their execution. Mr. Danvers has informed me that he has transmitted my note to the Military Department, and further consideration induces me to suggest the probable advantages that might result from a light railway or tramway being made for probably the first 10 or 15 miles from the landing, whereby troops and stores could, immediately after disembarkation, be transported to a comparatively healthy and unencumbered position. If approved, I am ready to undertake this service, and, as a guarantee of my fitness, I would state that the last Government appointment I held was that of Colonial Engineer and Chief Commissioner of Roads at the Cape of Good Hope.

From my knowledge of Egypt I have little doubt that all the requisite rails, waggons, &c. could be obtained in that country.

I have, &c.,
J. SCOTT TUCKER.

Enclosure 4 in No. 540.

Messrs. McDougall to the Director-General of Stores for India.

Sir, 11, Arthur Street West, London, September 11th, 1867.
As we learn from reliable authorities that it is almost certain the mules and all other animals engaged in conveying the troops and stores in Abyssinia will be subject to the fearful ravages of the tsetse fly and other insects, we hasten to suggest a simple remedy and preventive.

We manufacture a patent disinfecting soap, free from poison, and harmless to animal life, near which insects will not come, and which instantly destroys any that come into contact with it. It is in the form of a salve or soft soap, and a little of it rubbed over the spine of an animal effectually protects it from the attacks of insects. So useful has this article proved to be, that it is used very extensively by the leading farmers throughout this country to kill all insects infesting their flocks and herds, and to prevent their attack. For these purposes, upwards of 300 tons was used last year with the greatest success.

It may be used as a salve or made into a solution by the addition of water, and sponged over the animals.

As a protection to men it is equally effective, and a superior quality is now used in hot climates for toilet purposes.

It furnishes a safeguard from the bites of insects, and has most beneficial action on the skin.

It is distinct from other soap, in that it contains carbolate of soda (*i.e.*, carbolic acid neutralized with soda); and, owing to its powerful antiseptic properties, it is strongly recommended by Dr. Erasmus Wilson and many leading members of the medical profession in cases of cutaneous diseases.

We respectfully invite your attention to further particulars and certificates as to its efficiency in the enclosed printed circulars, where this *same* article is called "Disinfecting Soap" and Sheep Dipping Composition, it being needful for trade purposes to sell it under these names.

We beg permission to recommend that the common quality be ordered for use on the beasts that will be engaged in this expedition, and the better quality for toilet purposes by the men, and are certain the result of its use will give great satisfaction to your Department.

We also enclose a copy of a letter from the "Times" of the 3d instant, headed "One who has suffered from the tsetse fly."

And have, &c.,
McDOUGALL BROTHERS.

Enclosure 5 in No. 540.

Messrs. McDougall to the Chief Clerk, India Store Department.

Sir, 11, Arthur Street West, London, September 13th, 1867.
In reply to your inquiry of the 12th instant, the price of our Patent Carbolic Disinfecting Soap, of the dark quality, is 5s. per cwt., packed in tin canisters of 10 lbs. each, which, for transit to Abyssinia, should be packed in strong wooden cases, containing 10 canisters, equal to 100 lbs. each; these packages to be charged extra.

In districts where the tsetse fly and other insects are exceedingly numerous, the soap should be rubbed along the spines and between the ears of the animals, and the rest of their bodies sponged with a strong solution of the soap and water; this should be done twice weekly, but, when the flies are less troublesome, rubbing the soap along the spines and between the ears will afford sufficient protection.

The minimum quantity required would be $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per week for each mule or beast, or 1,300 lbs. for 100 mules or beasts for six months.

One ton weight, packed in the above manner, measures from 50 to 55 cubic feet.

Permit us to state that, if the white or yellow quality of this soap were supplied to the troops engaged in this expedition, it would be of immense benefit to them, as, whilst having a most refreshing effect on the skin, it allays irritation from excessive heat or perspiration, and though it does not leave any odour on the person, no flies or insects will attack where it has been used.

The price of this quality is 7s. per cwt., and should be packed in strong wooden cases, containing 1 cwt. each,—cases charged extra. One ton weight occupies about 50 cubic feet.

We are, &c.,
McDOUGALL BROTHERS.

Enclosure 6 in No. 540.

Surgeon-Major WYATT to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Coldstream Guards Hospital, September 17th, 1867.

I have the honour to request your consideration of this communication, which I would venture to submit in the interest of the health of the troops about to be employed upon the Abyssinian expedition, which I trust may be deemed my excuse for intruding myself upon your notice.

Having had the good fortune to serve throughout the whole of the Crimean campaign with my regiment, and frequently also officially associated with the Medical Department of the French Army, I became too vividly impressed with the fact that one of the chief causes of the disparity in amount of disease from "purpura," or scurvy, during the first winter of that campaign in the two armies arose mainly from the circumstance that the French, besides being supplied with compressed vegetables, were in the habit of consuming the succulent green vegetables growing on the banks and in the rivers, which was much prized by them, although the supply was necessarily limited.

I ascertained from personal examination that a species of cress was indigenous to the country, which vegetable contains in its elementary composition superior anti-scorbutic properties to the lime-juice ordinarily issued for service, which is often adulterated and incapable of retaining its supposed virtues as an antidote to the most debilitating and depressing disease which can possibly attack troops in the field.

It occurred to me that, as a certain proportion of succulent vegetable food is necessary for the maintenance of the healthy functions of nutrition, it would be desirable to obtain some antidote for the results arising from a deficiency of such supply, which would alternate and occasionally supplement the lime-juice,—this indication being entirely fulfilled by the common cress. I have for some years past, both in hospital and private practice amongst the poor during winter, been in the habit of advising a concentrated fluid prepared at my suggestion, after careful analysis, by Messrs. Savory and Moore, which is highly impregnated with all the elementary components of the green vegetable, and in this form is a very valuable anti-scorbutic, for I would beg to say, as the result of my experience, that the human digestion is as liable to be nauseated by a long continuance of the same kind of medicine as with the same kind of diet, and this forms my chief reason for wishing to strengthen the hands of the authorities responsible for the health of the troops with an alternative which cannot be so liable to adulteration as the lime-juice is so well known frequently to be.

I may also be allowed to mention that this preparation, so carefully made by Messrs. Savory and Moore, has been brought to the knowledge of several of the leading medical authorities by me, and an opinion highly favourable to its merits expressed by them.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WYATT,

Regimental Surgeon-Major, Coldstream Guards.

Enclosure 7 in No. 540.

Surgeon-Major WYATT to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir, Coldstream Guards Hospital, September 23d, 1867.

With reference to your communication dated September 21st, I have the honour to offer the expression of my best thanks to the Secretary of State for India in Council for the obliging consideration which he has been pleased to give to my previous communication of the 17th instant, in which I took the liberty of urging that a supply of the pure essence of water-cress should be furnished for the use of the troops about to be employed on the Abyssinian expedition, not so much as a cure for the disease of scurvy when it has occurred, as a most valuable preventive of its formidable occurrence; and as it is so much more portable in the concentrated form in which I have had it prepared than lime-juice, I would, from the great benefit I have known to be derived from its employment, urge with great deference that a few gallons may be allowed to form part of the medical supplies about to be sent in the hospital ships for the use of the sick, and I venture to do so from the practical experience I have had of its value.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WYATT,

Regimental Surgeon-Major.

No. 541.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

No. 279, Military.

Sir, India Office, 30th September 1867.

With reference to your telegram, dated the 16th instant, respecting the insulators required for the field telegraph in Abyssinia, and to the 10th paragraph of my Despatch, No. 119, to Bombay, of which a copy was transmitted to you by the last mail, I forward, for your information, a copy of three letters which have been addressed to this Office by Major Champain, of the Royal Engineers, under whose direction the arrangements for the equipment of the telegraph train for service with the Abyssinian expedition are being carried out in this country.

No. 374.

No. 376.

No. 377.

Nos. 190,
407, and 412.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 542.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

No. 281, Military.

Sir,

India Office, 30th September 1867.

No. 444. I have received and considered in Council your Letter, dated the 17th of August last, No. 238, replying to the inquiries which I addressed to you on the subject of the despatch of an expedition to Abyssinia; and I have caused a copy thereof to be forwarded to the Secretary of State for War, for the information of himself and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

No. 504. 2. I await further information from the Government of Bombay respecting the amount and constitution of the force to be despatched, as it is the desire of Her Majesty's Government to leave all the arrangements to the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army, to whom the command of the expedition has been entrusted. I am glad to perceive that, if necessary, troops can be spared from Bengal to join the force.

No. 48. 3. It is with much satisfaction that I learn your opinion that, if the expedition be well commanded, with a good political staff subordinate to the General-in-Chief, there is every prospect of success. You will have already learnt from my Political Despatch of the 19th August, No. 3 (Secret), that the military and political authority have been united in an Officer whose character will, Her Majesty's Government feel confident, inspire a feeling of security that nothing will be neglected which can tend to the successful termination of the operations.

No. 540. 4. The enclosed copy of a Despatch which has been this day addressed to the Government of Bombay will show the further measures which have been adopted in this country in reference to the expedition.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 543.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 30th September 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you, with a view to its being laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a telegram which has been received from Colonel Clark Kennedy at Alexandria, announcing that Captain Willoughby had been informed by the Bombay Government that three thousand additional mules are required by 20th November; and I am to request that you will state whether any similar requisition has been received at the India Office, and whether Sir Stafford Northcote concurs in steps being taken for the supply of these additional mules.

I am to add that, owing to the delay in the despatch of the mule transports from this country, Sir John Pakington fears that the mules already purchased cannot all be landed in Egypt by that date.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 543.

Telegram from Colonel KENNEDY, Alexandria, to the Secretary of State for War.

Bombay Government telegram to Captain M. Willoughby that 3,000 additional mules or pack-horses are required by 20th November; is demand approved?

No. 544.

The Indian Government Agent at Alexandria to the Assistant Under Secretary of State for India.—(Received September 30, 1867.)

Sir,

Alexandria, 17th September 1867.

No. 88. I have to acknowledge your letter of the 27th last month, informing me that arrangements have been made for forwarding to me, for the service of the Abyssinian expedition, from Trieste, as many "Marie Theresa" dollars as can be obtained. I beg to state that I have settled with the Agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Company at

this place for their transmission to the Political Agent at Aden. But some delay may take place, as the Austrian steamers have to perform quarantine here.

I have communicated this to the Political Resident, and requested him to send me receipts as the several consignments come to hand, which I shall forward to you for the information of the Secretary of State in Council.

I am, &c.,
H. JOHNSON.

No. 545.

Major CHAMPAIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 5, John Street, Adelphi, 30th September 1867.

I have the honour to point out that it may probably add to the efficiency of the Field Telegraph Train for Abyssinia if a small supply of signal rockets be sent out with the equipment.

Should it be considered advisable, I would venture to suggest that a letter be written to the War Office, requesting that Colonel Boxer, who superintends the Laboratory at Woolwich, might be instructed to pack 500 quarter-pound signal rockets, in boxes not exceeding 100 pounds in weight, and to send them to the India Stores Department, Belvidere Road.

I have, &c.,
JOHN U. CHAMPAIN,
Assistant Director-in-Chief,
Indo-European Telegraph.

No. 546.

Lieutenant A. LE MESSURIER, R.E., to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 7, Connaught Square, Hyde Park, W.,
30th September 1867.

This morning I met Mr. Jackson (Engineer) by appointment and inspected a pump well adapted for lifting water from wells, tanks, rivers, &c., and admirably suited from its cheapness, durability, and portability to accompany troops on the line of march.

II. The pump is known as "Bastier's Patent Chain Pump," and worked by one man with a pipe $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in lengths amounting to 40 feet, will raise 12 gallons of water per minute.

Its cost, with spare lengths, washers, &c. ready packed for shipment, will be under 50%.

Its weight not more than 150 lbs.

It is easily removed, and requires no cleaning, care, or attention.

It can be fixed in a few minutes, and by a simple arrangement adjusted for any depth.

The flow of water from the discharge pipe will do away with the perpetual water-drawing which always occurs in tropical climates where the supply is derived chiefly from the rudely constructed wells of the country.

III. A larger pump, with a pipe $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, will give a supply of 80 gallons a minute.

Its motive power, a camel or a pair of bullocks.

Its cost, ready for shipment, about 80%.

I submit a tracing of a large pump (pipe 7 inches diameter) which will show the working principles more fully.

IV. I would therefore respectfully suggest that at least two of the smaller pumps and one of the larger should be ordered for the Abyssinian force. The small pumps can be got ready in a fortnight, and the larger in about three weeks.

V. I shall be only too happy to devote my time in carrying out any instructions you may feel disposed to give with reference to the above remarks; and

I have, &c.,
A. LE MESSURIER, Lieut. R.E.

No. 547.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 1.)

My Lord,

Madrid, September 28, 1867.

I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Valencia, confirming his telegram of yesterday's date, respecting the engagement of muleteers, copy of which was forwarded in my despatch of the 27th instant.

No. 532.

I have, &c.,

L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Enclosure in No. 547.

The Acting Vice-Consul at Valencia to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

Sir,

Valencia, September 26, 1867.

Assistant Commissary-General Irvine and Captain Hale Wortham, R.A., British Commissioners here, buying mules on account of the British Government for shipment to Alexandria, received a telegram this morning from the War Office, dated 25th instant, informing them that a transport had sailed from London that day for Valencia direct.

The Captain-General and Civil Governor here refuse to allow the engagement of muleteers to be shipped in the transports to attend the mules; and the former informs the undersigned he has received a Royal Order against these engagements.

As the transport will be due at this port on 3rd to 4th instant, it becomes urgent to ascertain the decision of the Spanish Government in this matter, which decision I beg to ask your Excellency to telegraph to me, in order that the Commissioners may have time to telegraph to Gibraltar orders to send muleteers from that place in time to meet the transport, and avoid its detention here.

It appears the Spanish Government is not convinced that the British Commissioners want only to engage grooms to attend to the mules, and not for service in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

T. H. DART.

No. 548.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 1, 1867.

Nos. 531,

532, and 547.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Minister and from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid relative to the purchase of mules and the engagement of muleteers in Spain for the use of the proposed expedition to Abyssinia.

I am, &c.

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 549.

Major CHAMPAIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

5, John Street, Adelphi, 1st October 1867.

No. 257.

With reference to the conclusion of paragraph 2 of your letter of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to forward a demi-official letter from Colonel Simmons, R.E., stating that the probable cost of the whole signal apparatus which he considers necessary for the Abyssinian expedition will be from 900*l.* to 1,000*l.*

I have had several interviews with Colonel Simmons at Chatham, but, for reasons which he gives, it has been impossible as yet to draw up an estimate in detail. I, however (in accordance, I believe, with the wishes of the Indian Government), requested that the preparation of the apparatus should be set in hand, and I trust that the expenditure of a sum not exceeding 1,000*l.* may be sanctioned for the purpose.

An estimate in detail will of course be submitted as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

JOHN U. CHAMPAIN, Major, R.E.,
Assistant Director-in-Chief,
Indo-European Telegraph.

Enclosure in No. 549.

Colonel SIMMONS to Major CHAMPAIN.

My dear Major Champain,

30th September 1867.

The whole of the signal apparatus will cost between 900*l.* and 1,000*l.*, so that if you send in your estimate for the latter sum you will have ample funds. There has been a delay in getting this estimate in consequence of the difficulty of fixing on patterns, and even now the patterns of all the things are not quite complete, so that it is impossible to fix a more precise sum.

The above will include all apparatus necessary,—

1. For signalling between ships and shore ;
2. For fitting up the signalling detachment ;
3. For extending their signals to brigades, regiments, and corps, with all material necessary for six months' work, excepting lamp oil, of which, however, a good supply will be taken for immediate use.

The printers are hard at work with the code. The heavy stores will be ready to leave by the 10th, if required. Will you give me a few days' notice how they should be addressed, and where sent?

Yours, &c.,

J. L. A. SIMMONS.

No. 550.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, 1st October 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you a letter from Mr. Trevor No. 483. Plowden, brother of Her Majesty's late Consul in Abyssinia, offering to write to King Theodore to endeavour to induce him to release the British captives there detained. I am also to enclose a draft of the reply which his Lordship proposes to send to Mr. Plowden; and I am to request that, in laying these papers before Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, you will move him to inform Lord Stanley whether he concurs in the course which his Lordship proposes to pursue. See No. 569.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 551.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, 1st October 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you a copy of a note from the Netherlands Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, requesting, on behalf of his Government, that an Officer of the Netherlands army may be allowed to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia; and I am to request that you will move Sir Stafford Northcote to inform Lord Stanley what answer should be returned to this application.

I am at the same time to request that you will remind Sir Stafford Northcote that similar applications on behalf of some Italian Officers, which were referred to the India Office on the 17th and 20th ultimo, have not yet been answered.* Nos. 385 and 434.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON,

Enclosure in No. 551.

M. EVERWYN to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Londres, le 28 Septembre 1867.

Le Gouvernement du Roi, ayant appris que deux Officiers Français prendront part à l'expédition projetée en Abyssinie, et ayant été informé qu'un Officier de l'armée des Pays-Bas désirerait également avoir l'honneur d'assister à cette campagne, vient de me charger de prendre des informations par rapport aux conditions auxquelles les Officiers Français en question seront admis à assister à l'expédition susmentionnée, et d'adresser la demande au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, s'il voudrait également accorder l'autorisation à un Officier de l'armée Neerlandaise de prendre part à la campagne en question.

* See Nos. 530 and 493.

En vertu des ordres sus-mentionnés, je prends la liberté de m'adresser à votre Seigneurie, en la priant de vouloir bien me prêter son intervention bienveillante, à l'effet d'être mis en état de donner une réponse à la demande que j'ai l'honneur de lui adresser par la présente de la part de mon Gouvernement.

J'ai, etc.,
D. EVERWYN.

No. 552.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 1st October 1867.

No. 508.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, dated the 27th ultimo, with its enclosure, respecting an offer which has been made by a gentleman at Bastia to supply mules for the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 553.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 1st October 1867.

No. 482.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that, in a telegram which has been received from Bombay, it is stated that the following medical officers are asked for by Inspector-General A. Gordon, C.B., for duty with the British force about to proceed to Abyssinia:—

- 1 Deputy Inspector-General;
- 3 Staff Surgeons-Major;
- 4 Staff Surgeons; and
- 8 Staff Assistant Surgeons.

2. They are required to be available for duty with any part of the force, and should be sent to Suez, where instructions will meet them from the Commander-in-Chief of the expedition.

3. On your informing me of the names of the officers who may be selected for this duty, arrangements will be made for their passage to Egypt.

I have &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.
Military Secretary.

No. 554.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 2d October 1867.

Nos. 528 and
529.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 28th ultimo, and, in reply, to request that the Officers and detachments therein mentioned as having been selected for service with the Abyssinian expedition may be held in readiness to proceed to Egypt, under the charge of Lieutenant St. John, R.E., by the troop ship which will leave Portsmouth on the 21st of November.

2. I am desired to add that Sir Stafford Northcote concurs in the opinion of the desirability of carrying out the proposals contained in the 4th and 5th paragraphs of the letter from Colonel Simmons, and requests that he may be authorized to carry them into effect.

I have, &c.

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.
Military Secretary.

No. 555.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant St. JOHN, R.E.

Sir, India Office, 2d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward to you a copy of a letter from the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment, with two nominal lists of the Non-commissioned Offices and men of the Royal Engineers who have been selected for service with the Abyssinian expedition as telegraphers and signallers and photographers; and I have to request that you will hold yourself in readiness to proceed to Egypt, in charge of them, by the troop ship leaving Portsmouth on the 21st of November.

2. You will receive instructions, on your arrival at Suez, from the Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary force, respecting your further movements.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 556.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services,
Somerset House.

Sir, India Office, 2d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that passages may be engaged for the Officers and men described below* on board the troop ship which will leave Portsmouth on the 21st of November.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 557.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General, Horse Guards.

Sir, India Office, 2d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that it has been determined that a party, consisting of the strength named below,* shall proceed to Egypt on board the troop ship which will leave Portsmouth on the 21st of November, with the view of their being attached to the Abyssinian expedition; and I am to request that they may be included in the statement of the troops to embark on that vessel.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 558.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 2d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a copy of a letter from Mr. S. Apostolides, respecting the purchase of donkeys or mules at Cyprus for the use of the Abyssinian force.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

* Lieutenant St. John, R.E., Lieutenant Morgan, R.E., Lieutenant Puzey, R.E.; 1 Sergeant and 24 rank and file, Telegraphers; 1 Sergeant and 9 rank and file, Signallers; 1 Sergeant and 7 rank and file, Photographers.

No. 559.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 2d October 1867.

No. 529.

With reference to my letter of the 28th ultimo, enclosing nominal list of the detachment of photographers selected for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that the name of No. 4389, Sapper H. M'Donagh, 36th Company, may be substituted for that of Sapper W. Robertson therein named.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 560.

The Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Bank of England, 2d October 1867.

No. 475.

In continuation of my letter of the 24th ultimo, I have to acquaint you of a further shipment of 180,000 dollars, to the care of Captain Henry Johnson, Agent to the Indian Government, at Alexandria, by the steamer from Trieste, on the 28th September.

The drawing account of the Secretary of State in Council of India has been debited as under:—

	£	s.	d.
On 30th September - - - - -	21,129	0	8
„ 2d October - - - - -	16,903	4	7

I am, &c.,

F. MAY,

Deputy Chief Cashier.

No. 561.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 2d October 1867.

No. 201.

With reference to Major-General Pears's letter of the 4th ultimo, stating that Sir Stafford Northcote proposed to call the attention of the Government of Bombay to Sir John M'Neill's plan of a railway to accompany the advance of the force preparing for operations in Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for such consideration as Sir Stafford Northcote may think proper to give to it, the accompanying letter from the Horse Guards, dated 26th ultimo, with its enclosures from Colonel Simmons, Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham, containing a somewhat similar proposal for the construction of a line of railway into Abyssinia from the point of disembarkation of the expeditionary force.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 561.

The Deputy Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 26th September 1867.

I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to transmit to you the enclosed letter from the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment, containing a proposal to send out the materials for constructing a railway in Abyssinia for the use of the expeditionary force to and from the point of disembarkation.

His Royal Highness fully approves of the proposition, which he considers would materially conduce to the success of the operations in Abyssinia, if carried out; and I am to express His Royal Highness's wish that the matter should be recommended to the notice of the Secretary of State for India, should Secretary Sir John Pakington concur.

I have, &c.,

E. R. WETHERALL, Colonel,

Deputy Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 561.

The Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham to the Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Engineers.

Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham,
25th September 1867.

Sir,

With reference to the expedition now about to proceed to Abyssinia I have the honour to request that you will submit the following proposition to His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, which I venture to hope His Royal Highness will think proper to press upon the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I should hesitate in making this proposition, for an operation in course of being conducted from India under the auspices of an Engineer Officer of such reputation as Sir R. Napier, were it not that the materials for the execution of such work must be sent entirely from England, that the labour also would be best and most economically provided therefrom, and that it would not hamper the General in his military operations during its execution, nor increase his responsibility, but come in solely as an assistance to him, and be the means of improving the health of the army by lessening their labour and adding to their comfort, and eventually, I believe, a source of very large economy on the total expenditure of the expedition, an economy which will not be measured by thousands, but literally by hundreds of thousands.

This statement will not be exaggerated when the difficulties and losses consequent on the seven miles between Balaklava and the front before Sevastopol are considered, and that there is no made road in Abyssinia, so that, even after a heavy day's rain and much more after a week's rain, the mule tracks for the supply of the army will become impassable, when the distance from the shore to the front will be, if the troops are only on the edge of the high plateau, some six or seven times longer than the road from Balaklava.

My proposition is shortly this,—to send out a contractor's line of railway, with a sufficiency of navvies, say about 500, who might be increased afterwards, if necessary, to follow up the army, laying the rails as fast as they can.

I should propose that this railway be laid following the sinuosities of the ground, with as near as possible a regular slope ascending to the table land, that it should have a gauge of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, laid on cross sleepers 5 feet long ($9'' \times 4''$ section), and be worked with light open wagons, to be constructed for the special purpose by mule or horse traction.

I would further propose that the materials should be sent forthwith from England for it, and to form an independent wharf sufficient for its own purposes, and that the whole work be constructed, subject of course to the directions of the Commander-in-Chief, entirely as a distinct operation, each section being brought into use for the army as completed.

Having travelled much in mountainous countries, I am satisfied there is hardly a country in the world where such a railway might not be laid with great facility, following the sinuosities of the ground, and avoiding obstacles to the utmost, limiting also the steepness of the gradients to what is perfectly practicable for mule traffic. That such, in all human probability, is the case between the sea coast and the table land of Abyssinia, is evident from the enclosed table of distances and altitudes as taken from the map of the routes leading from Massowa and Ansley Bay to the highlands of Abyssinia, prepared by the Topographical Department.

From this table it will be seen that the rise from Massowa to a point near Mogunda, in a distance of 39 miles, is only 4,250 feet, with gradients averaging, on the various distances measured, not more than 1 in 15 (the first ten miles being very flat), and that the rise of the valley of the River Haddas, from its mouth to Asubo, in a distance of 35 miles, is 4,050 feet, the first $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles, near the sea, being comparatively level, and the remainder by no means excessive.

With such average rise it may be predicted, with great confidence, that the country is suitable for such a railroad as I describe; and now as to the cost.

Tonnage to the extent of 1,000 tons would suffice for the materials and tools for the construction of five miles of such a railway, and a large proportion of the staff, and I feel confident that 2,000*l.* per mile allows a very wide margin to cover all expenses, if 30 miles of the railway only were constructed, exclusive of plant for working it, the cost of which would depend upon the amount of traffic. If the railway were constructed, one mule would probably do the work of 20 with pack-saddles, and if it only extended across the low lands to the foot of the hills, it is more than probable, the nature of the country being considered, that it would more than pay itself in money in a few months, and it would undoubtedly be the means of saving many valuable lives.

As to the time requisite for its construction, I have no hesitation in saying that 500 able-bodied navvies would make light work of laying two or three miles a week, across a level country, where there is not much earthwork, and it is not improbable that they might, in ascending, continue to advance at a very good rate, so that, by increasing the number of workmen, if the expedition did not come to an end before the commencement of the rainy season in March, the railway might by that time be completed up to the table land at Dogonta, Dixan, Kaya Kohr, or any other point indicated by the General in command.

If this project were entertained, it would be advisable that 10 or 15 miles of railroad should be sent out in the first instance, which might be laid across the low country, and, while it was being laid, further explorations and surveys could be made, to determine the course by which it should be carried up to the highlands.

The subject is of such importance that I trust that His Royal Highness will pardon me for intruding it upon him.

I have, &c.,
J. L. A. SIMMONS,
Colonel, Royal Engineers,
Director.

Enclosure 3 in No. 561.
Table of Distances and Altitudes.

Places.						Distance.	Height.	Average Rise in Feet per Mile.	Average Gradient.
From			To						
						Miles.	Feet.		
Massowah	-	-	Imakullu	-	-	4	180	45	$\frac{1}{117}$
Imakullu	-	-	Bat	-	-	6	29	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{344}$
Bat	-	-	Part	-	-	$21\frac{1}{2}$	430	172	$\frac{1}{30}$
Part	-	-	Ghinda	-	-	$14\frac{1}{2}$	1,201	83	$\frac{1}{63}$
Ghinda	-	-	Bamba	-	-	4	1,380	345	$\frac{1}{15}$
Bamba	-	-	Point near Mogunda	-	-	8	1,030	Dividing ridge 129	$\frac{1}{40}$
Total						39	4,250		

Ansley Bay.

Shore	-	-	Waha	-	-	$12\frac{1}{2}$	620	50	$\frac{1}{105}$
Waha	-	-	Point marked 1340	-	-	12	720	60	$\frac{1}{88}$
Point marked 1340	-	-	Point marked 2640, near Mount Habaza.	-	-	4	1,300	325	$\frac{1}{16}$
Point near Mount Habaza	-	-	Point near Mogunda	-	-	10	1,610	161	$\frac{1}{32}$
Total						$38\frac{1}{2}$	4,250		

Route up Valley of Haddas from Ansley Bay to Dogonta.

Shore	-	-	Waha	-	-	$12\frac{1}{2}$	620	50	$\frac{1}{105}$
Waha	-	-	Asubo	-	-	$22\frac{1}{2}$	4,050	165	$\frac{1}{32}$
Asubo	-	-	Dogonta	-	-	13			
						58			

No. 562.

The Secretary of the Shipowners' Association at Liverpool to the Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Liverpool, 2d October 1867.

We are directed by the committee for managing the affairs of this association respectfully to direct your attention to the fact that many shipowners of this port have received telegrams from Bombay, to the effect that all iron ships are being refused by the authorities to be taken up as transports for the conveyance of troops; and to inform you that, at a meeting of the committee, held this day, on the subject, it was unanimously resolved that the Government should be respectfully urged to give authority at once, by telegraph to Bombay, for iron ships to be taken up.

We were directed further, respectfully to ask that inquiries might be made to ascertain upon what grounds the authorities in India made any distinction between wooden and iron ships.

We are, &c.

ELLIS AND FIELD, Secretaries.

No. 563.

The Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 2d October 1867.

With reference to your letters to the Military Secretary, dated 7th and 18th ultimo, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to transmit to you the sub-joined statement of the Detachments of Royal Engineers who are to proceed in charge of the telegraphic, photographic, and signalling stores for service in Abyssinia, and to

request you to furnish me with due notice of the ship in which they are to embark, and the date and place of embarkation.

The detachments are ready to depart now, but it is desirable that they should remain at Chatham, under instruction, as long as possible.

Telegraphists—Lieutenant Morgan, 1 Sergeant, 24 rank and file.

Photographers—1 Sergeant, 6 rank and file.

Signallers—Lieutenant Puzey, 1 Sergeant, 9 rank and file.

In charge of Stores—Lieutenant St. John.

A detachment of Royal Artillery is under orders to proceed in charge of a mountain train battery and rocket equipment for Abyssinia, and similar information will be required in due time as to the intended date of their embarkation.

I have, &c.,

H. H. CLIFFORD, Colonel,
Assistant for Quartermaster-General.

No. 564.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 2d October 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 18th ultimo, informing you of the progress No. 405. which had been made in obtaining mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the following summary of the reports relating to mule purchases, from the 23d instant to the 30th instant:—

	In hand.	Promised or Contracted for.
Malta	300	—
Gibraltar	583	917
Alicante and Madrid	1,000	600
Valencia	300	300
Barcelona	14	—
Brindisi	220	380
Alexandria	—	300?
Beyrout	—	500
Scandaroon	—	500?
	2,417	3,497

I am to observe that the numbers at Brindisi and Alexandria can be reduced, and that with regard to Scandaroon nothing has as yet been decided on, the prices demanded being too high; but, in case of there being a falling off elsewhere, additional numbers can be procured at Alexandria, or wherever most favourable as regards price and freight.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 565.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant ST. JOHN, Royal Engineers.

Sir,

India Office, 3d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that an offer has been received from Mr. W. Prosser, of 5, Whitehall, to supply the apparatus for using his lime light in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

2. It is understood that the apparatus and materials for one strong light, such as might be used with an outlying picket in case of night attack, can be furnished by Mr. Prosser in a week, at a cost of from 300*l.* to 350*l.*; and I have to request that you will communicate with that gentleman, and report to this Office upon the probable utility of the invention for service in the field.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 566.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Mr. W. PROSSER.

Sir, India Office, 3d October 1867.
I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 19th and 24th ultimo, and to acquaint you in reply that he has instructed Lieutenant St. John, R.E., to look at the apparatus of your lime light, and to report upon its probable utility with reference to the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.Nos. 427
and 474.

No. 567.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 3d, 1867.

No. 479. You have not answered my telegram of the 24th, inquiring whether five thousand mules will be sufficient.

No. 568.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 3d October 1867.
I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, and to inform you in reply, for Lord Stanley's information, that Sir Stafford Northcote quite approves of the proposed letter to Mr. Trevor Plowden.

No. 550.

I am, &c.,

HERMAN MERIVALE.

No. 569.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Mr. T. PLOWDEN.

Sir, Foreign Office, 3d October 1867.
I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo, proposing to write a letter to the King of Abyssinia, with a view of inducing him to release the captives now detained in that country; and in reply I am desired by his Lordship to thank you for this offer, and to inform you that he sees no objection to such a course being taken by you, as a private individual having influence with the King, provided the letter in question is merely in the form of friendly advice to the King from yourself, and that it is distinctly understood that Her Majesty's Government are in no way concerned in or cognizant of it.

No. 483.

I am, &c.

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 570.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Governor and Deputy Governor of
the Bank of England.

Gentlemen, India Office, 3d October 1867.
With reference to my letter dated 27th August last, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will make arrangements for completing, for the present, the purchase of Maria Theresa dollars to the value of 290,000*l.*, and for their transmission to Captain Johnson, Agent to the Indian Government at Alexandria, as speedily as possible.

No. 87.

I have, &c.,

HERMAN MERIVALE.

No. 571.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India.

October 3d, 1867.

In reply to 280.

Assuming that the line of telegraph from the sea coast to head quarters will be 300 miles, how far do the men and materials coming from England suffice? Is anything needed from hence, besides poles and tents?

No. 572.

The Governor General of India in Council to the Secretary of State for India.

(Received October 3d, 1867.)

Military, No. 258.

Sir, Simla, 3d September 1867.

In continuation of our despatch, No. 238, of the 17th August 1867, on the subject of the projected expedition to Abyssinia, we have the honour now to transmit for your information copies of correspondence on the same subject.

No. 444.

2. We beg to call your attention to our despatch, dated 25th August, in which we propose to the Bombay Government that a portion of the expedition should proceed from Calcutta.

3. Our reasons for making this proposal are given in the 2d paragraph of the letter just referred to, and in addition to these reasons we would point out that we consider that a small army like that of Bombay cannot conveniently furnish for foreign service the amount of force indicated by Sir R. Napier as needed, and that, even if it could strain its establishments to the degree necessary to meet the requirements of such an expedition, we deem it, for many reasons, very inexpedient that Bombay should be so denuded of its own troops, and their place in Bombay cantonments be taken entirely by regiments and batteries from Bengal and from Madras.

4. The arrangement we have proposed to Bombay, if acceded to by that Government, will, we are convinced, tend greatly to lessen the difficulties inseparable from an expedition of such magnitude, intended to operate in a distant, difficult, and comparatively unknown country like Abyssinia.

We have, &c.,

J. LAWRENCE.
W. R. MANSFIELD.
H. S. MAINE.
G. N. TAYLOR.
W. N. MASSEY.
H. M. DURAND.
G. N. YULE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 572.

Telegram from Sir ROBERT NAPIER to the Viceroy, 21st August 1867.

Would your Excellency prefer to send two regiments of Native Cavalry equipped for service in Abyssinia? if so, when could they be here? or would you prefer to supply two regiments for relief of Cavalry, Rajpootana and Sinde? if so, when could they be there?

Enclosure 2 in No. 572.

Telegram from the Viceroy to Sir ROBERT NAPIER, 23d August 1867.

If one regiment of Cavalry could be spared from Sinde without relief, I propose that one regiment, Sinde Horse, and one regiment from Bengal should go; but, if no regiment can be spared from Sinde, then I would propose to send two regiments, Bengal Cavalry, as there is no objection to sending a Bengal regiment to Jacobabad; I think a regiment of Cavalry could be spared from Sinde temporarily.

S. BLANE,
Military Secretary.

Enclosure 3 in No. 572.

Memorandum by the Quartermaster-General of the Bombay Army, regarding the Approaches to Abyssinia by the ports of Tajurra, Amphila, and Mussowa.

Poona, 6th July 1867.

1. At the request of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the following observations are offered on certain lines of communication in Abyssinia, after a perusal of the published accounts of most

English travellers, descriptive of the northern and central provinces of that country, dating from Bruce in 1769, up to the present day. Full extracts from these works have been placed on record in this Department.

2. Assuming Magdala and its neighbourhood as far as Debra Tabor* (or Gaffat) to be the objective

Advance from the Egyptian frontier on the west has not been considered, it being improbable that any demonstration would be made from thence.

Mussowa to Magdala by Antalo.
Tajurra to Magdala direct by Aussa and Lake Haik.

Amphila.

From Amphila to Tocoonda
or Degonta, see para. 17.

See para. 16 below.

the Abyssinian highlands, is justly said to possess superior advantages to any of the lines of communication under notice.

4. Mussowa and Tajurra are both well known as ports; the general character of the routes that connect them with the interior are also well known. I will endeavour, therefore, to show that for an invading force, whose every move from the moment of debarkation must be prompt, and as free as possible of local shackles, no point offers such advantages as Mussowa for the base of such a force. From thence the Ethiopian highlands are easiest gained in the first instance, and our communications with the theatre of war may be best maintained in the second. After establishing an advanced post somewhere about the Zarai plain beyond Dixan, we should be on the direct road to Tanta and Begemed, by Antalo, Socota, and Lasta, and it will be seen, from the sketch plan annexed, that this line affords every facility for exploring its direct communications with the sea at Amphila, Edd, and Tajurra, if requisite. This I would respectfully submit, as a preferable way of exploring those lines, to that of landing a force for the purpose at any of the ports named, and thus risk exposing it to great privations in regard to water, forage, and provisions of every kind; not to mention the embarrassing operations of plundering Bedouins for the first 100 or 200 miles, as the case may be.

5. Mussowa, it is true, has its difficulties, both as to water and the ruggedness of its lines of communication with the Abyssinian table, at either Kiaquor by the pass to that point, or with Dixan by the Taranta Pass; but I would submit that they are well known, and the means of overcoming them are also well known, whereas of the difficulties of Amphila and Edd little or nothing is known, or the means of meeting them.

6. Tajurra is fortunately well known, and we have only to read the description of each day's march of Harris's expedition in 1841, drawn up by Dr. Kirk, to be satisfied that, however convenient such a port of debarkation may prove for caravans of slaves from Southern and Central Abyssinia, it is utterly impracticable in the present state of its roads and water for the safe and prompt progress of an army invading Begemed.

Believed to be very nearly as follows:—

	Miles.
Mussowa to Antalo - - - - -	200
Antalo by Socota, Deldri, Suradoget, Shal, Shelte, to Magdala (Krapf) - - - - -	175
	<u>375</u>
Mussowa to Adowa - - - - -	140
Adowa to Gondar - - - - -	180
Gondar to Debra Tabor - - - - -	60
Debra Tabor to Magdala - - - - -	80
	<u>460</u>

8. A perusal of Bruce's and Krapf's routes from Adowa to Gondar will show that from the former point the most difficult, and at the same time the least healthy, tract of country in Abyssinia is crossed, including the Tacazze river, which there runs between mountains, the descent of which on the Adowa side is to the extent of 2,000 or 3,000 feet, and their ascent on the other could only be effected by a road which we should have to cut for the passage of the army.

9. A few miles further on, the Samen range (the highest in all Abyssinia) has to be crossed, and the passage of Mount Lamalmo could not be effected by an organized army with its necessary equipments, even of the lightest possible kind, except by a road cut by our own Pioneers. Were this pass held by the enemy in force, it would take some time to dislodge them.

10. I do not mean to assert that on the eastward, or Antalo route, similar operations will not be required, but it may be assumed that, on a line which traverses the principal water-shed of the country, as that is said to do, the depth of the valleys, the breadth and force of the river, and the rises and falls of the route generally will not be of such magnitude, or so difficult to deal with, as those of a line which crosses the main drainage of the country far from its head.

* It is about 80 miles from one to the other.

11. The following passage, abridged from Dr. Beke's recent work on Abyssinia, gives a general idea of the tract of country which from Mussowa to Zeyla intervenes between the sea and the Abyssian table. He says:—

"The high table-land of Abyssinia is separated from the sea by a belt of low and almost waterless desert, *very narrow* at the north, in the neighbourhood of Mussowa, and widening towards the south, till in the latitude of Zeyla, the edge of the table-land recedes almost 200 miles from the coast."

The tract referred to is about 200 miles wide at Tajurra, about 100 at Amphila, and 60 at Mussowa; but, as regards the latter, abundance of water will be found at all seasons, except March and April perhaps, when it is said to be had by digging in the beds of certain streams.

12. I now proceed to offer a few observations upon the detailed information in our possession of the routes above referred to.

Tajurra is well known as the point of Harris's debarkation in May 1841, and the route from that to Ankober, the capital of Shoa, has been fully and scientifically described by Dr. Kirk.

Tajurra route.

A force proceeding to Begemeder from Tajurra would go direct to Lake Haik by Aussa. It would only, therefore, follow the first 85 miles of Harris's road, and we have only to read his account of the ruggedness of the country, the heat, and want of water experienced in that distance, to be satisfied that if some 50 or 60 men, with 200 head of cattle, passed it with great difficulty, an army of 12,000 or 15,000 men, with an equal number of cattle, could scarcely do so without considerably impaired health and organization. Moreover, to keep open such a line of communication would be next to impossible.

After the first 13 miles at Sagalla, Harris's party travelled *forty-six miles*, to Goongoonta, *without any water except what they carried with them* in their pukkals. At Goongoonta they found a running stream, but the water was "brackish." Nine miles further it was reported "plentiful but saline," and so on to the Hawash, with only the occasional refreshment of good water.

Harris, in Volume I., page 73, of his "Highlands of Ethiopia," writes as follows regarding the Tajurra route, by which he was obliged to return when he left Abyssinia in February 1843:—

"The miserable town of Tajurra, the city of the slave merchants, was for two years in the hands of the Turks after the taking of Mussowa, and converted into a fort a venerable mosque now in ruins on the sea beach near the palace. The melancholy aspect of the place is but too well calculated to convey to the traveller a foretaste of the sufferings inseparable from a pilgrimage through any part of the country denominated Adel; and each barbarian of the entire population of Tajurra will be found, on sad experience, a type of the Dankali nation. The Dankali rise from their devotions well primed with Moslem intolerance, and are perfectly ready to lie and cheat as occasion may offer. * * * * * Delay in obtaining carriage had so far delayed the advance of the embassy as to oblige it to cross the Tehama during the height of the fury and unwholesome blast, which during the months of June and July, sweeps over the *waterless* tract from the south-west; and had, moreover, rendered it impossible to reach Abyssinia before the setting in of the annual heavy rains, when the river Hawash becomes impassable for weeks together. * * * * * Gram was to be carried for horses and mules during the passage of arid regions, where, during the hot season, neither vegetation or water exists; and, the wells and pools having notoriously failed in every part of the road during three successive seasons of unusual drought, it was necessary to entertain a large proportion of transport for a supply of water sufficient to last both man and beast for two or three days at a time; whilst, neither grass nor green food remaining near the sea shore, the 170 camels now forming the caravan had been individually assembled from various grazing grounds many miles distant in the interior."

Extract from Captain HARRIS's Report to Government on leaving Shoa in February 1843.

"No. 6 of 1843."

Aden, 25th March 1843.

Para. 1. I have the honour to report for the information of Government, that, in obedience to the instructions conveyed in your letter of the 21st May last, No. 798, the mission under my charge to the court of His Majesty the King of Shoa left the frontier of that kingdom on the 9th February, and, having passed in safety through the Adel tribes, arrived at Aden on the 23d instant.

Para. 5. The plague now broke out on the frontier of Shoa; a strict quarantine was forthwith enforced, and all advice from Gondar was entirely intercepted. No alternative remained under such circumstances, but to adopt the return route through the country of the Adel, and, as the weather in the desert tracts below was daily becoming more oppressive, and the water in the scanty pools more scarce, it became imperative to adopt immediate measures, notwithstanding that I had not been honoured with the final orders of the Supreme Government on the subject of my reference, and that the recollection of former sufferings experienced was vivid in the mind of all.

Para. 6. Increased disturbances and new feuds existing among the distracted Adel population, augmented the difficulties to be overcome; but it is highly satisfactory to state that, although thrown entirely upon its own resources and destitute of funds, the party were enabled to make the necessary arrangements. It has unfortunately too often happened that, even in these regions, the word of the white man has not been found implicitly worthy of confidence, after the dangers of the journey have been passed; but it is a gratifying fact, that the name of the Bombay Government and the credit of Captain Haines, their Political Agent at Aden, were sufficiently respected, 400 miles in the interior of Africa, to assemble the wild tribes of the desert and induce them to afford the requisite escort, on the promise of reward to be paid on arrival at the sea coast.

Para. 7. The Alla, and the Ethoo Galla in particular, had been for some time previous engaged in continual forays upon the adjoining plains, and the Danakil caravans themselves remained on either frontier unable to proceed. It therefore became imperative to provide a strong guard to escort the party, as well as the accompanying Government property, and after the usual harassing debates the bargain was finally concluded. Had treasure been forthcoming at the moment, the arrangements might perhaps have been of a still more economical nature than it was found possible to impose under

the peculiarities of the case ; but the number of Bedouins could not, under any circumstances, have been dispensed with.

Para. 8. The usual difficulties experienced with respect to carriage were also not a little enhanced by the absence of funds ; and, although the most valuable portion of the Government collection has been brought away in safety, it was found requisite to abandon the greater part of the geological specimens which had been accumulated, as well as a portion of Government property, which, although materially conducive to the comfort of the party, was made over to the King as a parting present.

Para. 10. It is unnecessary that I should trouble you here with any detail of the journey. The route pursued was, with a few trifling deviations, the same as that by which the mission entered Abyssinia the year before last, and the only difference experienced, either in the country or the climate, arose from the earlier season at which the perilous march was undertaken. From the frontiers of Efat to the sea coast the tribes were in arms. The most horrible enormities were daily committed ; extreme hostilities were meditated against the British, to exterminate whom whole clans had sworn upon the Koran, and it was only by the blessing of Divine Providence, aiding a strict discipline during the day and a vigilant watch throughout the night, that the party reached its destination in safety.

Para. 11. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case, I deemed it prudent to trust entirely to the judgment of the Ras el Kafila, and to exercise no control whatever over the outlay of presents, whether in cloth or money, the disbursement of which he considered necessary to secure the good will of the chiefs through whose territories our progress lay ; and, considering the irritated state of the wild tribes at the period the large party safely passed through, I trust that Government will regard the outlay as being neither very enormous nor unprofitably made.

Para. 12. Other circumstances, too, conspired to enhance the difficulties experienced. Amongst these were the continued severe illness of Mr. Bernatz, who for several months previously had been confined to his bed, and performed the entire distance of 400 miles on a litter on the back of a camel.

Para. 13. The total period occupied between Farri, on the frontier of Efat, and Ambabo was 37 days, three of which were occupied in preparations by the warriors of the caravan for a foray against the Wurbora Galla. In this predatory incursion the mission were strongly pressed to take an active part, but, positively declining to lend the aid of British muskets in furtherance of plunder and slavery, the design was finally abandoned.

Para. 14. On reaching Killulle, the half-way stage, I despatched a messenger in advance to give intimation to the Political Agent at Aden of the approach of the party, and if possible to prevent the Rev. Messrs. Krapf and Isenberg from prosecuting their intended journey to Shoa. The Honourable Company's sloop of war, "Clive," was most fortunately lying at Zeyla, and Captain Cruttenden, with his wonted promptitude, brought her over at once to my assistance. Without the presence, on the African coast, of a vessel of war, the difficulties and hardships of the party would have been greatly increased ; and it was indeed a most providential circumstance that the position of the "Clive," and of the Assistant Political Agent, should have admitted of their co-arrival with the mission at Ambabo. But still more providential was the arrival at Zeyla of my letter, only two days before the reverend missionaries were to have commenced their journey inland, where not the smallest doubt can exist that all would have been murdered.

Para. 15. The whole of the mules that were fit to undertake the voyage were embarked in four native crafts hired at Tajurra, and the mission, after experiencing the utmost kindness and assistance on the part of Captain Kempthorne, commanding the sloop of war, landed at Aden on the sixth day after leaving the coast of Africa.

Para. 16. Hajji Ibrahim Shehem, the Ras of the Kafila, who is the Chief of Ambabo, and high in favour with Sahela Selassie, was induced to accompany the mission ; and, at my request, Captain Haines conferred upon him those customary honorary distinctions which are due to his services. It is probable that through his means those articles of commerce which have hitherto found a market only at distant ports on the Arabian coast may be turned through that of Aden.

Para. 17. Two Abyssinian Chiefs have been despatched by His Majesty the King of Shoa to cultivate the friendship of the British Government, and have safely reached this port. I am charged with a letter to Her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, accompanied by a mule, with rich caparisons, and by various presents, of which a list will hereafter be forwarded. The mule I have left in charge of Captain Haines, being unwilling to subject it to the chance of injury on a second sea voyage, until the pleasure of the Government shall be made known.

Para. 18. I have the honour to append copy of a memorandum circulated prior to quitting the capital of Shoa, which will serve to evince the difficulties to be anticipated on the road, not more from the treachery of the tribes than from the presence of Mr. Johnston with the party.

CIRCULAR.

Ankobar, 15th January 1843.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy to the Court of Shoa being on the point of retracing its steps through the country of the Adel, it is necessary that the instructions received originally from Government should be again promulgated for the observance of all parties proceeding under the guidance of Captain Harris.

Martial law will commence at Farri, and to its operations all parties are to hold themselves amenable throughout the journey.

A nightly watch is to be kept from date of arrival at Farri, when, in addition to the sentries of the European escort, and the servant's watch, an Officer will be brought on duty hourly, according to roster.

No fire-arms are on any account to be discharged during the night, without a report being first made to the Chief. The Officer on duty is to content himself with observing that the sentries are alert on their post, and that the camp is secure.

After passing the frontier, Officers and followers are cautioned to keep as much together as possible

along the line of march, and it is recommended that none should stroll further than may be absolutely necessary from the camp limits, in any position where the prospect exists of coming into hostile collision with lawless barbarians, of whom the majority are both by habit and by nature assassins.

The persons of all native females must be held sacred, and the consequences involved by a breach of this injunction will be suffered to rest upon the head of the offending individual.

All arrangements relative to the tribes on the line of route must be considered within the exclusive province and under the sole control of the Chief, and no opinion should be tendered unless requested.

The most pacific and conciliatory demeanour is enjoined. Hostile demonstrations with weapons, unless under orders, and unnecessary discussions with the Danakil, are strictly interdicted; and it can hardly be necessary to remind a civilized body, that harsh or sneering epithets which tend to arouse the evil passions of the savage, and may result in disastrous consequences, serve to degrade the European character.

Should any dispute unfortunately arise (a contingency which cannot be too highly deprecated), no individual must on any account assume to himself the right of redress. The subject is to be fully reported to the Chief, when such notice will be taken as the circumstances of the case appear to demand, and the party involved is to bear in mind that military orders are in force until arrival at Aden.

It is to be strictly borne in recollection, that the body is not sufficiently strong to fight its way through the country, even were such a measure politic or desirable, and that it is therefore an object of the first importance to conciliate all with whom it may be necessary to have dealings. And it shall hereafter form the subject of consideration in how far the combined strength is to be extended to the assistance of any individual, who by the infringement of one of these articles foolishly endangers the general safety.

The Chief of the expedition need scarcely remind the component members of the small party, how indispensably requisite it is, under all the annoyances and privations inseparable from a march through barbarous and hostile tribes, that the utmost unanimity and good feeling should prevail; whilst the very precarious nature of the escort which, under existing difficulties, it has been found practicable to obtain, renders the observance of these injunctions of the Government more than ever imperative upon all."

13. The direct route to Aussa, of which I have spoken, would branch off from Harris's route at the plain of Gagade, from whence to Aussa (60 or 70 miles), and thence again to Lake Haik, about 140 miles further, we have no detailed

Aussa route to Begemedir.

accounts. Dr. Beke mentions it as a caravan route to Gondar, and gives the halting places as named to him by a native merchant; but details we have none, and the line is included in that "almost waterless track," which intervenes between the sea and the Abyssinian table, as 200 miles broad in this part.

14. Many efforts were made in 1841 to 1843 to become better acquainted with this part both from Zeyla and Tajurra, but, owing to the treacherous and predatory, no less than the avaricious character of the Bedouins who inhabit it, all efforts have failed. Burton succeeded in going from Zeyla to Hurrur, situated a long distance off to

Zeyla to Hurrur and Berbera.

the south, and Lieutenant Barker, I.N., endeavoured to proceed from Shoa to Hurrur and Zeyla; but of the direct line from Tajurra to our theatre of operations in Lasta and Begemedir, by routes of Aussa and Lake Haik, we have no information, except of the general character above referred to.

Tanta and the Bashilo river; plain of Dalanta, &c.

Northern line of road.

marked, the prior occupation of this line of communication would afford a good base for exploring efforts in the direction of the sea at Amphila, Edd, Tajurra, or Zeyla.

Amphila.

Mussowa and Antalo road just referred to.

Amphila.

The water at this port, he says,—
"Depends upon a number of wells rudely hollowed out by the natives. Those in the neighbourhood of the village are *fit for use only during a short time after the rains have fallen*, being at other times dry or impregnated with salt water. The best wells are found at Amphila Point *six miles E. by S. from the harbour*, and they are three-fourths of a mile from the beach. They are 12 or 14 feet deep, but soon become exhausted, and are liable also to be affected by high tides, and become brackish."

16. As regards the line from this to the Abyssinian table, Mr. Salt despatched Mr. Coffin with a friendly and confidential Chief to examine it.

The journey was performed on camels, as follows,—

From Amphila across the salt plain to Mount Senafé and Antalo.

Salt plain, 50 miles.

Before proceeding across this plain, which is five days' journey in length, but only one across, they were provided with sandals, always used by travellers in crossing it. The first part was slippery and

20 miles.

dangerous, rather marshy; afterwards the surface was hard and encrusted with saline matter. After a 20 or 25 miles march they reached the west side of it.

The next march was across steep and rugged passes in the mountains to the village of Dafo, in Abyssinian territory, but inhabited by Danakil.

20 miles.

25 miles.

The next march was across a beautiful country to the foot of Mount Senafé.

Proposed survey between Degonta (or Tokonda) and Amphila.

17. Colonel Merewether has promised to send M. Münzinger, the French Consul at Mussowa, to examine the line from Degonta or Tokonda, near the head of the Taranta Pass, to Amphila, and we

may shortly expect his report of it, but it will be observed from the sketch, which is taken from Johnston's map, that from Amphila to Degonta or Tokonda would be a retrograde movement, and that from Mussowa direct to Tokonda is the shorter line of the two.

18. Our general information regarding Mussowa, which includes three points of debarkation, viz.,

Points of debarkation at Mussowa.

Arkeko, Zeyla in Annesley Bay, and Moncooloo, is as complete as we could expect under the circumstances. Actual survey and reconnaissance by experienced officers must supply what is wanting, and with this view, should an expedition be ordered, one or more officers, properly supported, might be despatched in advance to examine the roads from Mussowa to the table land, and to fix the site of the advanced post at the head of the Kiaquor or Taranta Passes, viz., Koodoofelassey in the one case, and the Zarai plain in the other.

Advanced post at Koodoofelassey, if the Adowa route to Gondar be adopted.

19. As before remarked, the country in the Adowa direction is marshy and feverish. Colonel Merewether recommends the advanced post in that direction being first established at Koodoofelassey, as free from this objection, and as being only 30 miles from Kiaquor, or 90 from Mussowa, whilst Adowa is altogether about 140 from Mussowa.

Route by Adowa to Gondar.

Bruce speaks of the deadly type of the fever on the Adowa route, more especially near the Tacazze river, during the period from March to November, when the inhabitants resort to the mountain tops to escape its influence. Dr. Krapf has allusions of the same tendency, and considering, therefore, that in addition to this we have to contend against the physical difficulties presented by the mountains of Samen and those that confine the Tacazze to its course, nothing, I submit, but the absolute necessities that may arise in war should induce us to follow the Gondar route, especially as it is more circuitous by 80 or 90 miles than the direct line through Antalo and Socota.

The Chief of Tigré, if friendly to us, would protect our right flank and rear from that side; if hostile, we should have to act accordingly as circumstances at the time being might dictate.

Direct route by Antalo.

20. Up to Antalo and Socota, from Mussowa and Dixan, our information, though general, would be easily perfected by an advance party, who would lead the main columns by the best lines, but from Socota direct to Magdala we require to gain intelligence. We have Dr. Beke's route from Debra Tabor to Socota, and the former is only 80 miles from Magdala, and is said to be connected with it by a road made by the King's

Road between Magdala and the King's capital at Debra Tabor.

European workmen, but, so far as our information goes, that is not the best side from which to approach Magdala. In fact, we might place ourselves in a false position by attempting to do so, the country on that side of Magdala being in Theodore's possession, whereas on the Lasta side of Magdala it is in rebellion. All this, however, depends upon the movements of the King on the arrival of the force in Abyssinia, but, assuming that he would throw himself into Magdala, we should proceed by the best line from Socota, probably either to Lalebela or to Deldee, which would bring us to Magdala on its most accessible side, viz., the north, whence it is said to be commanded by a neighbouring height.

21. Dr. Krapf, on coming from the south, passed from Tanta close to Magdala, but returned from the plain of Delanta towards Lake Haik, and thence proceeded towards Socota, which he did not visit for reasons stated in his work. From all these accounts we know that Lasta is very mountainous, but it is also very healthy, and is inhabited by the finest race in Abyssinia, "the descendants (according to Beke) of the primitive occupants of the whole country; who possess peculiar privileges, and disclaim all honorary titles at the hand of the Sovereign, by whom they are treated as equals."

The people here referred to, we have every reason to believe, could be induced to co-operate with us, under their Chief, Gobazye.

22. If we could gain information of the best line from Socota to Magdala, whether by Lalebela or Deldee, Saradojee, Shal, Shelte, &c., altogether about 100 miles or so, we should possess all that we require preparatory to actual reconnaissance in front of the force.

23. I would therefore respectively solicit that an endeavour may be made to obtain full reliable information on this point, viz., the road from Socota to Magdala, by the most direct practicable line.

24. It is presumed that between Mussowa and the head of the Tekonda Pass and that part of Tigré, no hostilities are to be apprehended. If so, on the expedition being ordered, a sort of pioneer brigade should precede the main body by a month at least. The duty of this advanced force would be to fix upon a proper position near Dixan, above the Tekonda Pass, for the rendezvous of the whole force. Then line out and clear a road down the pass and through the plain, by the shortest and best line to Arkeko.

Importance of not halting any troops in the low country near Mussowa one day longer than may be indispensably necessary.

Halting places to be selected, wells dug, and every preparation made to prevent the detention of any troops in the low country one hour longer than can be avoided.

The tribes to which this 60 or 70 miles of country belong should be secured, as coolies or as police, to aid at standing camps, which should be pitched, if possible, between Arkeko and Dixan.

This would facilitate one of the most important objects connected with the commencement of our operations, viz., to reach the highlands as rapidly as possible direct from board ship, and thus save running any risk from the unhealthy character, want of water, &c., of the sea coast.

The defiles that lead to these highlands remind one of those by which the Murree and Boogtee hills are approached, viz., by paths alternately up the beds of mountain torrents and over steep precipitous spurs and ridges.

25. The accounts given by all travellers in Abyssinia of the hill forts and their approaches are faithful descriptions of many of those in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta country, such as Dowlutabad, Singhur, Poorundhur, Munohar, Munsuntooh, and many others, excepting that the strongholds in Abyssinia rise to a loftier height above the surrounding country, have extensive plateaus on the summit, and are well supplied with good natural springs of water. Rockets and mountain ordnance would be useful auxiliaries to the larger pieces accompanying a force against these forts.

A few notes gathered from published and unpublished sources of information.

The seasons in Abyssinia correspond closely with our own. It rains from the middle of May to

Seasons.

Colonel Merewether speaks of rain at Mussowa last January, as usual.

At Ankober, in 1842, the following register was kept by Dr. Kirk:—

	Mean temperature.	No. of rainy days.		Mean temperature.	No. of rainy days.
January	- 52°	- None.	July	- 58°	- 28
February	- 54°	- 7	August	- 55°	- 28
March	- 57°	- 4	September	- 55°	- 24
April	- 55°	- 14	October	- 52°	- 10
May	- 59° 7'	- 4	November	- 50° 8'	- 9
June	- 62°	- 8	December	- 53° 2'	- 20

September everywhere, and between March and April Dr. Krapf encountered heavy storms from the province of Mans, where, and in Lasta, he describes the cold as very great in consequence. The lowlands near the sea

coast appear to correspond with our Konkan, and are always hot.

As regards supplies, sheep and cattle, wood, water, and forage appear to be abundant, especially as you proceed southward from Kiaquor or Tekonda, but as regards grain a force would have to be independent, for a time at all events.

Supplies.

A few camels, mules, and a small breed of horses are to be had, but a perusal of the extracts attached to this report, or of the works from which they are taken, will satisfy any one acquainted with campaigning in a hill country that, unless

Transport.

roads are cleared, mules, ponies, and horses can alone do the work that will be required of them; camels would only be an encumbrance in Tigré and Amhara, and harass the troops by detaining rear guards till after night-fall, when they would not probably be able to proceed at all, whereas mules march with the column.

Should any batteries of field artillery accompany a force, a road will have to be cleared for them, and in such a case camels, and, in some places, even transport waggons, might be used. The latter, however, would only ply between depôts, and not across country with the troops before the enemy; none but mules and coolies can do that work properly.

Native soldiers' tents for the men (European and Native), and for the Officers generally, would tend to celerity of movement, reduction of guards, compact camps, &c.

Camp equipage.

Larger tents for hospital purposes, &c., might be had at the depôt at

Mussowa, on board the ships, to be brought to the front if required.

As regards the armament of King Theodorus's troops, their number, &c., and the resources of the

Armament.

Abyssinians generally, in this respect, it is gathered, from the sources of information available, that, in 1842, two mountain guns, 500 muskets and bayonets, and 100 pistols were taken by Harris to Ankober, as a present to the King of Shoa. There is no information except that given by Messrs. Rassam and Blanc to show to what extent His Majesty has enlarged this embryo arsenal. It appears, however, that, both in the hands of the King's troops and of the independent Chieftains of rank and consequence throughout the provinces, perhaps one-third of their fighting men carry matchlocks, the rest spears and shields. What their resources in

M. Rochet, a French chemist, first introduced a gunpowder mill at Shoa, in 1839. See Harris's Despatches.

gunpowder and ammunition may be does not appear in any account; it is, however, inferred that the King's operations at Gafat and Debra Tabor were undertaken with the sole object of establishing an arsenal, and the several manufactories connected therewith. In the last

accounts received from the prisoners we learn that the King's cannon mania is at an end, and that he had buried the larger guns, and taken the light ones into camp. Whether these are the mountain pieces taken by Harris, or others procured since, is not stated. The King's present force is estimated

January 1857.

at 15,000 men. The following notes, however, taken from a report to Government of the events that occurred when Mr. Rassam arrived at

King Theodorus's camp, on 28th January 1866, will give a good idea of the strength and internal economy of the King's camp some sixteen months ago:—

"On 28th January 1866, Mr. Rassam, accompanied by Dr. Blanc and Lieutenant Prideaux, came in

South of Lake Trana. This account is from a Government paper enclosed with the Records.

sight of the Emperor's camp, in the district of Damont, between Agaumed and Godjam; at noon they met the guard of honour sent to receive them; Ras Engada, the chief minister, and about 300 officers, came to meet them, the cavalry riding behind. At 3 P.M.

they approached the hill on which the royal pavilion was pitched. Musketeers were ranged as a guard of honour on the right and left for their reception. The infantry began to discharge their muskets (no cannon being available). His Majesty's countenance shows resolution and a powerful mind. His throne had been left behind at Magdala, and he was seated on a couch.

"29th.—Mr. Rassam delivered his presents.

"30th.—The King intimated his intention to go to Korata, to wait till the prisoners should be

On the receipt of Her Majesty's letter he agreed to liberate them, but changed his mind.

brought from Magdala. Korata is a large town situated at the south-east extremity of the Lake Trana, about 6,000 feet above the sea. They found this climate neither hot or cold, 75° in the day and 55° at night. His Majesty moved his camp that day to Sekala, accompanied

by the whole army, estimated at 45,000 fighting men, and an equal number of followers, male and female.

"The whole army is divided into four divisions, which always encamp round the Court, the favourite division being placed on the right side of the King. Most of the troops on this occasion had not their tents with them, so that every day the soldiers had to build grass huts for themselves. These huts are constructed with great rapidity, and with great attention to order and neatness, the huts of the privates being arranged in a circle, with the huts or tents of the Officers in the centre. Every time they march, though it be only for a mile or two, the soldiers set fire to their huts, so that, on leaving a place, hardly any trace of the encampment is left.

"31st January.—To Bugata, in the Metcha district. King's tent on a high hill, overlooking Damont and Metcha districts, which are under the wrath of His Majesty, and he has determined to destroy them.

(4260.)

"For the first two days of the march Mr. Rassam and his companions had followed in the rear of the army. As the King found that they had been considerably inconvenienced by the crowding and turmoil of the troops, he, on the third day (1st February), invited them to ride with him at the head of the army. The King rides most gracefully, and it was a fine sight to see the whole army following him at a rapid pace, stopping when he stopped, and turning to the right or left as he turned, as though the movements of this great mass had been directed by machinery."

From many accounts which I have read of the operations of Abyssinian armies, the object first aimed at seems to be *surprise*, to effect which they cover long distances in so scrambling a manner as to be certain of sustaining a defeat if properly met, inasmuch as their forces are scattered in a disorganized manner over a considerable area of country.

Theodore is famed for his *night attacks*, so that our troops, when before the enemy, or within likely reach of him, would do well to carry out the Indian habit of getting under arms an hour before daybreak.

I have endeavoured to make the distances in the following routes approximately correct, but, when it is remembered that they are calculated from the length of time occupied by each march, there may in some cases, where the ground was very rough, or *vice versa*, be unavoidable mistakes.

R. PHAYRE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure 4 in No. 572.

Minute by Sir ROBERT NAPIER.

Poona, July 23d, 1867.

When the prospect of an expedition to Abyssinia first came under consideration, all the available sources of information contained in the Bombay Asiatic Society's Library and the Government's records were placed at the disposal of the Quartermaster-General, who, with great labour and perseverance, has waded through a vast mass of travels and correspondence, and has condensed the result in a brief report, which appears to give as correct conclusions as can be expected previous to more particular inquiries that may be made in the country itself by our own properly qualified Officers.

From the information supplied from the sources above noted, it appears that Massowah would be the most convenient port for the disembarkation of an expedition to obtain the release of the European captives now in imprisonment at Magdala.

That the best route will probably be found in the most direct line, *viâ* Dixan, Antalo, and Soeota, to the capital of Theodorus, at Magdala or Debra Tabor.

The course most convenient for adoption would appear to be, subject to future information, to send an advanced party as early as practicable, consisting of selected Officers of each Department, with a sufficient escort, say, a regiment of Native Infantry, a company of Sappers, and a regiment of Native Cavalry, to make arrangements for forming a base of operations at some point in the healthy table land, as near to Massowah as practicable, possibly about Dixan, on the Zami Plain, and to open the communication between it and Massowah. To arrange at Massowah for the convenience and protection of our troops and stores on first landing, and for their immediate advance to the high land, so that the unhealthy tracts on the sea level may be occupied for as short a time as possible; some period of occupation will be necessary, and it will be important to obtain the best situation for the purpose.

If these preliminaries are attended to at the earliest possible stage, all subsequent arrangements will be greatly facilitated.

The distance between Massowah and Magdala may be estimated roughly at about 400 miles, and Antola, the principal place of the province of Tigre, something more than half way.

The account we have of the Abyssinians is, that they are very far from formidable enemies against a disciplined force.

Harris represents a plundering expedition to consist of 20,000 men, of whom a very large proportion appear to have been horsemen.

Though, like most uncivilized races in war, formidable in an unexpected attack, and averse to risk an attack without possessing some great advantage on their side, yet they do meet in conflict, and many are slain.

Harris records the destruction, whilst entangled in marshy ground, of 800 Abyssinian Cavalry, by the Gallas, a nation of horsemen.

It appears that, by his misconduct, Theodorus has made enemies of all his neighbours, and that the people of Tigre on the north and the Gallas on the south and west would readily join against him; that his resources and followers are very much reduced, and it is believed by some that a small compact force, well equipped with carriage, could safely make its way to Magdala, overthrow Theodorus, and release the prisoners. All this is probably the case, but may not remain so. The Emperor, seeing his danger, may reconcile himself with his enemies; intrigues of other nations may raise hostility against us. We should neither like to be the means of the pagan Gallas overwhelming the miserable representatives of Christianity in Africa, nor of making use of some portion of the people, who might suffer after our departure the terrible vengeance which is dealt out to their enemies, when in their power, by the barbarous races of Abyssinia.

Our expedition, though making such friends and obtaining such assistance as would prevent molestation, must be sufficiently strong to do its own work with ease and security.

For this purpose about 12,000 men would be required to enable us to hold the first base near the sea, to have a force in support about half way, and to maintain the communications of an advanced party of about 5,000 men, which might operate over the last 200 miles to Magdala, or such other place as the prisoners might be conveyed to.

It seems probable that, by proper arrangements, meat, corn, and forage may be procured in the country; still, it is clear that to render a force efficient a very large quantity of carriage will be required. Mule carriage would be the best, but it would require so large a number of mules that to collect and maintain them would be very difficult. It will probably be necessary to employ a

Enclosure 3
in No. 572.

portion of camels, and as our guns will require tracks to be made for them, if none exist, there seems no reason why we should not employ light waggons, which will bring up our rear lines of magazines and commissariat; these might be supplied from England with horses complete, or a part of them might be adapted for mule draft, and those waggons and harness only supplied from England.

It would be a great assistance if a corps of 3,000 porters, such as the Chinese "Cooly Corps," can be formed of such races as would not be likely to fraternize with the Abyssinians.

Agents with sufficient funds should be despatched to the best places for procuring the cattle and supplies, and a Political Officer, with a Commissariat Officer of experience, and ample authority and means, should be stationed at Massowa to direct the preliminary arrangements.

It would be essential to success that the Government that immediately directs the expedition should have *full authority* to provide everything necessary for the health and comfort of the troops, and for making such staff appointments as may appear to them to be required, being guided in fixing the allowances by the usages of the service.

It is hardly necessary to observe that no such expedition could be carried out without very great expenditure, and that the very best arrangements may be crippled by some misplaced economy.

The general course of the seasons in Upper Abyssinia appear to resemble that of India, having a cold, hot, and rainy season.

Harris's Register, kept at Aukobar, 8,200 feet above the sea, gives a maximum temperature of 69°, minimum 41°, with 112 rainy days, of which the greater part were in April, July, August, and September.

Further from the sea the rain is probably more general, and the cold greater. It will, therefore, be absolutely necessary that the troops should have their tents, warm clothing, and a waterproof sheet for each man.

A list of articles supplied by the Court of Directors to the troops in Persia is annexed.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure 5 in No. 572.

List of Articles supplied to the Persian Expedition.

8,700 knitted worsted night-caps.
8,700 pairs worsted gloves.
8,700 " " mitts.
17,400 " " socks.
8,700 " " stockings.
8,700 " " Guernsey shirts.
8,700 worsted neck comforters.
8,700 flannel shirts.
2,200 blue serge banyans.
8,700 pairs ankle boots, of sizes, with 1 pair of laces for each pair of boots.
8,700 pairs of boot laces.

This is to show the kind of articles required for troops in a cold country, and is what was supplied for the Persian expedition.

Enclosure 6 in No. 572.

Memorandum of detail of a Force to Abyssinia.

Detail.		Officers.		Serjeants, Rank and File.	Total of all Ranks.	Remarks.	
		European.	Native.				
<i>British Troops.</i>							
Artillery	{	4 Batteries -	15	—	586	601	151 of all ranks for each battery.
		1 Mountain train -	2	3	90	95	
Cavalry	-	1 Squadron -	7	—	128	135	425 Natives in each Regiment.
Infantry	-	4 Regiments -	132	—	2,800	2,932	
<i>Native Troops.</i>							
Cavalry	-	4 Regiments -	28	76	1,624	1,728	616 Havildars and rank and file to each Regiment.
Sappers	{	2 Companies with a light Pontoon train on mules.	6	4	200	210	
Infantry		-	9 Regiments -	63	144	5,544	
Ditto	-	{ Pioneer Regiment from Bengal. }	7	16	600	623	
Total - - -			260	243	11,572	12,075	

It would be desirable to add four more Companies of Sappers, as much opening of wheel roads would be required.

Enclosure 7 in No. 572.

Estimate of Carriage, including Provisions for men, horses, and bullocks, spare ammunition, &c., &c., for 30 days.

4 Field Batteries	-	-	-	-	-	Camels or Mules, 1,328 or 2,632 and 16 mules.
1 Squadron Dragoons	-	-	-	-	-	322 or 642 and 4 mules.
4 Regiments Native Cavalry	-	-	-	-	-	3,160 or 6,144 and 8 mules.
3 „ British Infantry	-	-	-	-	-	2,316 or 4,488 and 9 mules.
7 „ Native Infantry	-	-	-	-	-	3,017 or 5,649 and 14 mules.
*1 Regiment Sikh Pioneers	-	-	-	-	-	431 or 807 and 2 mules.
2 Companies Sappers	-	-	-	-	-	192 or 376 and 15 mules.
						†10,766 or 20,738 and 69 mules.

Poona, 20th July 1867.

R. PHAYRE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure 8 in No. 572.

Memorandum by the Commissary-General of the Bombay Army, Poona, August 1, 1867.

Statement exhibiting the Carriage, in Camels and Mules separately, for the Conveyance of 30 Days' Provisions for a Force consisting of—

—	European Officers.	European Warrant Officers.	* European Non-commissioned, Rank and File.	Native Commissioned and Non-commissioned, Rank and File.	Public Followers.	Private Followers.	Horses.	Bullocks.
4 Field Batteries - -	24	4	580	52	904	196	576	316
1 Squadron European Cavalry -	12	1	150	—	268	75	174	6
3 Regiments European Infantry	111	9	2,580	—	1,116	645	18	60
4 „ Native Cavalry -	36	—	—	1,996	2,568	436	2,088	24
8 „ „ Infantry -	64	—	—	5,696	696	872	64	64
2 Companies Sappers - -	6	2	26	234	46	50	—	1
Total - -	253	16	3,336	7,978	5,598	2,274	2,920	471
Or, in round numbers, say -	3,600			8,000	5,600	2,300	3,000	500

Rations for 3,600 Europeans for 30 days:—

	Lbs.	Lbs.
Biscuit, at 1 lb. per man per diem - - -	108,000	
Meat—none to be kept on hand.		
Flour or Rice, at 4 oz. per man per diem -	27,000	
Sugar, at 2½ oz., ditto - - -	16,875	
Tea, black, at ½ oz., ditto - - -	4,821	
Salt, at ¾ oz., ditto - - -	4,500	
Vegetables—none.		
Firewood—none.		
		161,196

Rations for 8,000 Native troops for 30 days:—

Wheat flour or rice, at 2 lbs. per man per diem -	480,000
Dholl, at 4 oz., ditto - - -	60,000
Ghee, at 2 oz., ditto - - -	30,000
Salt, at ¾ oz., ditto - - -	10,000
	580,000

* If allowed carriage for knapsacks, spare trenching tools, in same proportion as Bombay Sappers, 32 more camels or 112 mules would be required.

† Note.—This shows the bare carriage of the troops, but does not represent the entire demand for all contingencies.

		Lbs.	Lbs.
Rations for 5,600 public followers for 30 days:—			
Wheat flour or rice, at 1½ lbs. per man per diem	-	-	250,000
Dholl, at 4 oz., ditto	-	-	42,000
Ghee, at 1 oz., ditto	-	-	10,500
Salt, at ⅔ oz., ditto	-	-	7,000
			311,500
Rations for 2,300 private followers for 30 days:—			
Wheat flour or rice, at 1 lb. per man per diem	-	-	69,000
Dholl, at 4 oz., ditto	-	-	17,250
			86,250
Rations for 3,000 horses for 30 days:—			
Grain, at 10 lbs. per horse per diem	-	-	900,000
Ration for 500 bullocks for 30 days:—			
Grain, at 4 lbs. per bullock per diem	-	-	60,000
Grand Total	-	-	2,098,946

The following carriage is required for the conveyance of—

Lbs.	Lbs.
2,098,946 ÷ 400 per camel = 5,248 camels, or	
2,098,946 ÷ 200 per mule = 10,496 mules, or	
2,098,946 ÷ 168 per mule = 12,494 mules.	

5,400 gallons of "arrack" will be required for 3,600 Europeans for 30 days, at 2 drams per man per diem, which, at 20 gallons per "camel keg," will require 270 kegs or 135 camels, or in 10-gallon kegs 270 mules.

Carriage for the conveyance of rations for the camel men or muleteers will be required, also for the conveyance of grain rations for the camels or mules to be employed.

J. B. DUNSTERVILLE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Commissary-General of the Army.

Enclosure 9 in No. 572.

Minute by Sir ROBERT NAPIER.

Poona, August 8th, 1867.

In continuation of my Memorandum of the 23d of July last, it may be observed, that we possess all the information that can be given by ordinary travellers who are not accustomed to consider routes with reference either to the indispensable wants, or the power of removing difficulties, possessed by bodies of troops.

We know enough to be assured that in all human probability there is nothing which could prevent a body of efficient troops of the strength recommended in the previous memorandum, furnished with the requisite carriage and supplies, from forcing its way, in spite of all obstacles, in the course of say two, or at the utmost two and a half months, from the coast to Magdala, or wherever the Emperor Theodorus may be.

The force named, 12,000 effective men, is the smallest that would be safe. Considering that, at the lowest estimate, 10 per cent. may be struck off for sick and inefficient. Say 2,000 men for the port, the first post on the high land, and the communication between them.

2,000 men for a secure point *d'appui* at Antalo,* or similar point in advance, where we could form hospitals, collect supplies, and maintain the communications.

2,000 men as a reserve to hold open the communication with the advanced column, to support it, if necessary.

As each *depôt* is made secure and tenable by small numbers, it may afford to pass on more troops to the front, with supplies, if necessary.

This is only a general sketch of measures which must depend entirely on circumstances as they are found, and on the discretion of the General commanding.

We have for our general guidance the belief that a force of five or six thousand men at the point of action will be sufficient to overcome any resistance. We should be able, if necessity should arise, to add to it by two or three thousand men, in case of our having to overcome a stronghold or to break into two or more columns in pursuit.

The General in command should have power to employ any of the petty Chiefs or tribes† that he finds can be trusted, and to enter into arrangements with the rulers of the intermediate provinces for allowing our force opportunities for purchasing supplies, and for the protection of our postal communications.

Just treatment of the people, rigorous discipline amongst our followers, and liberal payment will, it is believed, secure for us general freedom from molestation and all the supplies that the country can furnish.

By having our forces well equipped with carriage, clothes, and tentage, they will be independent, and should the necessity unfortunately arise, they may pass the winter, as they call the rainy season, without any very great suffering.

* Antalo is in the province of Enderta, and is described by Krapf as a town of considerable extent, but ruined.

† This refers more particularly to the Shotas and other tribes in the eastern part of the route, who are independent of, or nominally subject to Abyssinia.

Although there seems reason to believe that up to the borders of the territory now actually under the control of Theodorus we shall find nothing hostile to us, we have to remember that the Abyssinian Chiefs are treacherous, and unrestrained by the conventions of civilized people, that they are utterly regardless in taking life, that they are subdivided, and that besides the Christians there are other races who would be bound by no engagements or orders of the rulers of the provinces, and that our equipment and property would offer to them the strongest temptation to plunder or to break into hostilities; that the differences of religion may cause quarrels with our Native troops, who would look with abhorrence on Abyssinian customs. We could not, therefore, expect immunity for any body of troops that might be found entirely dependent on the country for subsistence, and might not be strong enough to command respect for itself.

It will, I hope, be considered advisable to attach a surveying party to the expedition, to add as much to our geographical knowledge as possible.

A party of Officers for philosophical investigations in botany, natural history, and mineralogy would probably find opportunities of making very valuable additions to science.

100 miles of field telegraph would be very useful.

The absence of a sub-marine cable between Bombay, Aden, and Suez is very much felt.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure 10 in No. 572.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Simla, 25th August 1867.

In continuation of my letter of the 22d instant, and with reference to a memorandum received by His Excellency the Viceroy, demi-officially, from His Excellency Sir R. Napier, relative to the projected expedition to Abyssinia, I have the honour, by desire of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, to communicate to you the views of His Excellency in Council on various matters, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council and of the Commander-in-Chief at Bombay. What is now sent must be considered merely in the light of suggestions, and subject to such modification as may seem necessary after consideration by the Governor in Council and by Sir R. Napier.

2. His Excellency Sir R. Napier thinks that about 12,000 effective men are required for the purposes of the expedition, and His Excellency, in his memorandum, details that force. The Governor General in Council accepts the proposal as far as numbers go, and would only suggest that certain of the details should be slightly modified, as will be shown hereafter; but His Excellency in Council thinks it desirable that only a portion of this force should be furnished from the Bombay Army, for various reasons, such as the convenience, it may also be said necessity, of using the port of Calcutta for the embarkation of some of the troops, and thus obtaining the command of a larger amount of shipping; the impossibility of Bombay supplying so large a force without drawing very largely upon the other Presidencies for troops to take the place of Bombay troops sent to Abyssinia; the inconvenience likely to arise from so large a body of troops being sent to Bombay to embark there, &c. In addition to these reasons, it is very desirable that some of the expenditure of the expedition should take place at Calcutta, and the difficulty of providing all the funds for it at Bombay be thus lessened. The troops going from Calcutta could also take their own military chest, and thus still further relieve the Bombay Treasury from pressure.

3. With respect to the force to proceed to Abyssinia, about 12,000 men, the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council would suggest the following composition for the force:—

Two batteries Field Artillery from the Madras Presidency;

Two batteries Field Artillery from Bombay;

The British Mountain Battery from Bengal;

Two companies of Madras Sappers and Miners, with such companies of this arm from Bombay as can conveniently be spared;

Four regiments Native Cavalry, two from Bombay and two from Bengal;

Four regiments British Infantry, viz., one from Bombay, one from Madras, and two from Bengal;

Eight regiments of Native Infantry, four from Bengal and four from Bombay.

4. His Excellency in Council thinks that it would be well to dispense with the squadron of British Cavalry proposed to be taken by Sir R. Napier. So small a body of European Cavalry could not add to the real strength of a large force like that proposed to be sent, while it would increase the carriage and impedimenta, both of which it is so desirable to keep down; but the Governor General in Council thinks it would be well to make the Field Artillery very efficient for foreign service, by adding 20 gunners and drivers and 32 horses to each battery of Field Artillery about to be employed.

5. Sir R. Napier proposes a mountain battery and a battery of mortars; but the Governor General in Council thinks, if the British Mountain Battery, now in this Presidency, is completed to 120 rank and file, exclusive of Native drivers, it might have attached to it six 5½-inch mortars.

6. His Excellency in Council thinks it would be unadvisable to send very weak regiments on the service proposed, and would therefore desire to see each regiment of Native Cavalry filled up by transfers or volunteers, so as to embark 450 sabres, and the Native Infantry, His Excellency considers, should be similarly completed to eight companies of 85 rank and file each. This will, in the aggregate, give about the same force as that proposed by Sir R. Napier, but with one regiment of Native Infantry less.

7. Looking comprehensively at the distribution of the army in India, the convenience of employing certain descriptions of troops, &c., the Governor General in Council considers that the proportions from each Presidency suggested in paragraph 3 will be most desirable.

The two batteries each from Madras and Bombay can be spared without relief. The Sappers, going from Madras and Bombay, in like manner need not be replaced.

As respects Cavalry, His Excellency in Council thinks that a regiment may be spared from Poona, and perhaps one from Sindé, it appearing that, exclusive of outposts, there were 1,100 sabres at Jacobabad on the 1st ultimo, notwithstanding the absence of a considerable number of men on furlough; though, if desired by the Bombay Government, a regiment of Madras Cavalry would probably be available to take the place of one regiment of Bombay Cavalry sent to Abyssinia; but the Governor General in Council would sanction an addition of a Non-commissioned Officer and 20 troopers to each troop in the regiments of Sindé Horse, and an addition of a Non-commissioned Officer and 10 troopers to each troop of every other regiment of Bombay Cavalry remaining behind, to provide for the increased duties likely to be thrown upon them.

The place of two out of the four Bombay Native Infantry regiments proposed for Abyssinia could be supplied from Madras, and this His Excellency in Council thinks should be sufficient, as it is not long since Bombay had two Native Infantry regiments detached in China.

8. The extra men added to the Cavalry remaining in Bombay would doubtless be needed to fill up vacancies in the regiments going to Abyssinia on the return of those corps to their Presidency.

9. The force thus constituted could conveniently be formed into two divisions, each complete in itself in all respects, with a commander and general staff for the whole.

The Bombay division would comprise:—

Two batteries, Field Artillery;

Sappers;

A brigade of Cavalry of two regiments;

Two brigades of Infantry, of two British (one from Madras) and four Native regiments.

The Bengal division might consist of:—

The two batteries from Madras;

The mountain battery;

Two companies, Madras Sappers;

A brigade of Cavalry of two regiments;

Two brigades of Infantry, of two British and four Native regiments, one or two of the latter being pioneer regiments.

10. The staff of each division being complete, it would remain with the Bombay Government to indicate what amount and description of head-quarters, staff, engineer, medical, commissariat, &c., was desired from Bengal.

11. Each division should go completely equipped as to ammunition, engineer and ordnance parks, &c., tools for entrenching, and felling tools, commissariat and medical stores and comforts; but it would be desirable that the Government of India should know for what period Sir R. Napier would wish the Bengal division to be provided in the first instance.

12. Further information is desired as to the port of debarkation fixed on by Sir R. Napier, and the time at which he would wish the Bengal division to arrive there, and whether at once or in portions.

13. Information is also desirable as to whether any equipment for the Bombay force is wanted from Bengal, and if so, whether it should be sent to Bombay or to the port of debarkation; and also whether, if any surplus ships or steamers are available at Calcutta, they should be taken up and sent round to Bombay.

Bombay will probably be able to provide tenders or flat-bottomed boats, and other means of landing the troops, horses, &c. at the point of debarkation.

14. I am to state that the services of the steamer "Feroze" are available in any way the Government of Bombay thinks proper.

15. With respect to tents, the Governor General in Council thinks that for convenience of transport only sepoy's tents should be taken for all branches of the force, except the regulated proportion of hospital tents for British troops.

16. His Excellency in Council considers that carriage must be provided in Abyssinia, and His Excellency trusts measures have already been taken to collect this. To get together and send to Abyssinia the amount of transport required would seem to render the expedition altogether impossible; and Colonel Merewether has already reported that there is abundance of carriage to be had. This would consist of camels, mules, and ponies, and both the Bengal and Bombay divisions should take saddles, ropes, and suleetahs sufficient for either description of carriage.

17. The only animals, save Cavalry horses, to be taken should be elephants, of which His Excellency in Council would propose to send from Calcutta 20, with cradles and equipment sufficient to carry or to draw the guns of a battery, and to carry the 5½-inch mortars.

18. Sir R. Napier thinks a large corps of coolies necessary, and the Governor General in Council concurs in this, and hopes steps will at once be taken to form one at or near the point of debarkation. If liberal terms are offered, there seems every probability of success in forming a useful corps of this description.

19. His Excellency in Council would strongly recommend that no wheeled carts, save gun carriages and ammunition carts of the Artillery, should be taken. To procure carriages from England, as suggested by Sir R. Napier, would involve great delay, and the use of such would probably be found very inconvenient. Everything should be carried by baggage animals, save the guns and a portion of the ammunition; the coolies being used to supplement these animals and to make themselves useful in various ways.

20. His Excellency in Council would gladly send telegraphic wire sufficient to reach from the sea to the furthest point likely to be reached. I am to inquire if it would be convenient to send telegraph officers and the wire from Bombay, or whether they had better be sent from this side of India.

21. The Governor General in Council proposes that the advantages in point of pay, rations, &c. given to troops on the China expedition of 1860 should be given on this expedition, and that all horses of Silladar Cavalry that die or become unserviceable during the expedition shall be replaced at the public expense.

22. As the issue of various orders in this Presidency and in Madras are dependent on the answer given by His Excellency the Governor in Council to the various points treated of in this letter, I am to beg that it may be replied to at the earliest possible date.

I have, &c.,
H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

P.S.—It would be desirable that the names of the Officers proposed for the command of divisions and brigades from Bombay should be communicated by telegraph to me, as it may be necessary to obtain higher local rank for them while employed in Abyssinia.

Enclosure 11 in No. 572.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Adjutant-General.

Sir,

Simla, August 25th, 1867.

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, copy of a Despatch this day addressed to the Government of Bombay relative to the projected expedition to Abyssinia.

2. His Excellency will observe that the proposals in this Despatch are of a suggestive character, and, though it is desirable that Sir William Mansfield should see these proposals as early as possible, it is not the wish of His Excellency in Council that any steps should be taken in Bengal to give effect to them until a reply is received from Bombay, when a further communication will be made for the information of the Commander-in-Chief.

3. Meanwhile, doubtless, His Excellency will consider what proposals he would desire to make to Government, should the suggestions sent to Bombay be concurred in by the Government of that Presidency and by Sir Robert Napier, wholly or in part.

4. I am to state that, should Native regiments go from Bengal, the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council thinks one can be spared from the Punjab Frontier Force, and it would be a desirable measure to use one of these regiments in the expedition, should Sir William Mansfield see no objection.

5. To save time, this letter is addressed to you, although there are various matters referred to in the enclosure which appertain rather to the Department of the Quartermaster-General. Perhaps you will have the goodness, under the orders of His Excellency, to let Major-General Paton see this communication, and, as soon as it can be printed, spare copies will be sent to you and to the Quartermaster-General.

I am, &c.,
H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 12 in No. 572.

Memorandum.

Copy of the foregoing letter to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, forwarded for information to the Commissary-General, [and Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines,] with a request that he will consider what measures are necessary to fit out and equip, in all respects, (as far as the Commissariat [or Ordnance] Department is concerned,) the force that it is here suggested should go from Bengal, so that he may be ready with all his proposals, should the Bombay Government concur in the suggestions being carried out.

Enclosure 13 in No. 572.

Memorandum.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Controller-General of Military Expenditure for information, with the request that Colonel Broome will be good enough to submit an estimate of the funds that should be made available at Calcutta, Bombay, and on the Abyssinian coast, for the purposes of this expedition, should the views expressed in this letter be carried out.

Enclosure 14 in No. 572.

The Secretary of the Government of India to the Commissary-General.

Sir,

Simla, 27th August 1867.

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council to request you will at once, in anticipation of the possible employment of troops in Abyssinia, instruct Executive Commissariat Officers to purchase mules for transport wherever they may be procurable.

2. As it is worse than useless to send bad animals on such an expedition, I am to beg you will instruct officers to purchase none but really first-class mules, the number of which the Governor General in Council is well aware is very limited.

3. His Excellency in Council leaves it to your judgment to fix the price, beyond which Executive Commissariat Officers should not be empowered to go.

4. As mules are purchased they should be provided with pack-saddles, and broken in to carry loads, but they are not to be moved from stations until further orders are issued.

5. Each purchase of mule or mules is to be reported by the Officer making it direct to me.

I am, &c.,
H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 15 in No. 572.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Simla, August 28, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“Has Colonel Merewether arrived? If so, what does he say as regards carriage being forthcoming on the seaboard of Abyssinia?”

We shall require something like two months' notice before we can put the troops from Bengal on board ship at Calcutta, and therefore the earlier we receive the views of the Bombay Government on the arrangements necessary on this side the better.

We sent, on the 25th, a Despatch on this subject which you ought to receive on the 31st.

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 16 in No. 572.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India, August 29th, 1867.

Colonel Merewether arrived; leaves for coast near Massowa in few days, in charge reconnoitring party. He thinks, no doubt carriage obtainable from native tribes, but that not safe to rely on it, as it would depend on friendly disposition of neighbouring Chiefs; consequently, preparations being made independently. Will reply to latter part of your telegram in day or two.

Enclosure 17 in No. 572.

Memorandum by the Controller General of Military Expenditure.

Military Department Account Branch, Simla, 27th August 1867.

With reference to Military Department docket of this date, covering copy of a letter to the Commissary-General, regarding the purchase of mules in anticipation of the possible employment of troops in Abyssinia, the undersigned requests permission to instruct the several Controllers to have a separate account kept of all expenditure in connexion with these anticipatory measures, or of actual operations should they be finally resorted to.

2. Unless instructions are issued at once to keep the record of all such expenditure distinct, it will be liable to be mixed up with general expenditure, from which it would be troublesome, if not difficult, to eliminate it hereafter with perfect accuracy.

ARTHUR BROOME, Colonel,
Controller General of Military Expenditure.

Enclosure 18 in No. 572.

Memorandum by the Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Simla, 28th August 1867.

In acknowledging the receipt of Memorandum of the 27th instant, the undersigned is directed to request that the Controller General of Military Expenditure will be so good as to give effect to his own suggestion, relative to the keeping, by the several controllers, of a separate account of all expenditure in connexion with the projected expedition to Abyssinia.

B. E. BACON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Officiating Deputy Secretary to the
Government of India.

Enclosure 19 in No. 572.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

Poona, 19th August 1867.

In submitting the accompanying copy of a Resolution of the 17th instant, and with reference to the third paragraph thereof, I am desired to say that since that Resolution was written further telegraphic instructions have been received from the Secretary of State for more extensive preparation for an expedition to Abyssinia, as his Excellency the Governor-General in Council will have learned by telegraphic despatch from his Excellency the Governor of Bombay; and consequently it will be necessary to make immediate provision for much larger expenditure than is indicated in the accompanying Resolution. I am desired therefore to request the favour of such immediate orders being given as will prevent any hindrance in respect of present expenditure, and also to solicit instructions as to the mode in which the necessary funds shall continue to be supplied in future.

I have, &c.,

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 20 in No. 572.

Resolution of the Governor of Bombay.

Poona, 17th August 1867.

On his Excellency the Governor informing the Secretary of State that in order to collect transport animals for an expedition to Abyssinia it would be necessary to procure them from the Persian Gulf, Egypt, the Red Sea, and from distant parts of India, and that it was desirable to lose no time in doing so, his Excellency received the following telegram from the Secretary of State, dated August 1st:—

“Proceed to collect transport animals; make known to us your requisitions on England without delay. Inform Government of India.”

Resolution.

The purchase of transport animals should be at once proceeded with under instructions which will be separately given.

(4260.)

M m

2. The accounts of expenditure for this purpose, and for any other preparation for an expedition to Abyssinia, should be kept distinct under a general head of "Abyssinian Expedition," in the Military and Marine Departments respectively.

3. The Government of India will be asked to give an immediate credit of five lacs of rupees in the Military Department, to meet the immediate purchases of transport animals.

4. Whenever oral or otherwise informal orders, in connexion with the contemplated expedition, are given to Heads of Departments, the Officer receiving the orders will at once take steps to procure the formal authority through the Secretary to Government, although the execution of the order is not to be delayed thereby.

5. Whatever appointments or nominations may be agreed upon in personal discussion will be formally proposed in the usual manner.

6. Copy of the letter to Captain Clarke of 17th instant to be sent to the Commissary-General, the Quartermaster-General, the Controller of Military Accounts, and the Accountant-General.

7. Copy of the letters of credit of 17th instant to Colonel Sir A. Kemball, Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly, and W. P. Johnston, Esquire, to be sent to the Accountant-General, who is requested to honour the drafts of those gentlemen accordingly, and the sums so disbursed, with any other which may have been already advanced for the purpose, will be charged against the Abyssinian expedition in the Military Department.

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 21 in No. 572.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Military Department.

Simla, 28th August 1867.

The undersigned is directed to transmit to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department the annexed copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated 19th instant, and to request that the Government of India in the Military Department may be informed of the exact orders that it is understood have been issued in that Department for the provision of funds at Bombay and elsewhere for the Abyssinian expedition.

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government
of India.

Enclosure 22 in No. 572.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department.

Simla, 29th August 1867.

The undersigned is directed to inform the Secretary to Government in the Military Department, in reply to his Memorandum dated the 28th instant, that by a telegram despatched yesterday 20 lacs of rupees were ordered to be placed at once at the disposal of the Bombay Government for the Abyssinian expedition. The Bombay Government stated this sum would be immediately required, and that a further sum of 20 lacs would be required in October. At the requisition of the Bombay Government, the Secretary of State has been requested to send 20 lacs of rupees to Aden, and, with a view of collecting funds for the treasure chest to accompany the forces, the several Mint Masters at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay have been ordered, under instructions from this Department, to collect Spanish and Mexican dollars, which are understood to be the coin most regarded by the people on the Abyssinian coast.

E. H. LUSHINGTON,
Secretary to the Government
of India.

No. 573.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received October 3d, 1867.)

Military, No. 67.

Right Honourable Sir,

Bombay Castle, 4th September 1867.

No. 127.

Referring to our telegram of the 29th of August, we have the honour to request that a quantity of the most approved patent yeast, sufficient to prepare bread for four thousand soldiers for a period of six months, may be sent to Suez with the least possible delay. The supply is required in connexion with the expedition to Abyssinia.

We have, &c.,

W. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.
R. NAPIER.
B. H. ELLIS.

No. 574.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received October 3d, 1867.)

Military, No. 68.

Right Honourable Sir,

Bombay Castle, 4th September 1867.

No. 189.

Referring to the telegram of the 3d of September, we beg to repeat the request therein made, that about thirty signallers trained by Captain Bolton to the new system

of army signals, with telescopes, codes, and signalling apparatus, may be sent out under a subaltern, for service in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

We have, &c.,

W. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

R. NAPIER.

B. H. ELLIS.

S. MANSFIELD.

No. 575.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India in Council.
(Received October 3d, 1867.)

Financial, No. 17.

Right Honourable Sir,

Bombay Castle, 28th August 1867.

The preparations that we are making under your instructions for an expedition to Abyssinia are expected to require within the next three months, in Asia and Africa, an expenditure of not less than 60 lacs of rupees, or 600,000*l.*, beyond our ordinary disbursements.

2. We are of opinion that it would be advantageous to have at least one-third of that sum available at Aden, in some form of currency that will be useful in Abyssinia, and request that you will be so good as to take measures for sending a specie remittance of 200,000*l.* to Aden by overland route as soon as conveniently practicable after receipt of this Despatch.

3. Three-fourths of this sum ought, if possible, to be sent in German (Maria Theresa) crowns, and the remainder in sovereigns.

4. We will place ourselves in communication with the Government of India to ensure the timely supply of specie remittances to meet all other disbursements on account of the expedition that we may be required to meet in this country.

We have, &c.

WM. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

R. NAPIER.

B. H. ELLIS.

S. MANSFIELD.

No. 576.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India in Council.
(Received October 3d, 1867.)

Financial, No. 22.

Right Honourable Sir,

Bombay Castle, 9th September 1867.

In continuation of our Despatch of the 28th ultimo, No. 17, the following telegram No. 575. has been forwarded to you:—

“From Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State.—Twenty lacs in crowns and gold required at Aden; send by first opportunity. If possible, cease drawing bills on Bombay.”

2. The last sentence of this telegram contains a request that you will discontinue drawing bills on us for the present, and we are induced to suggest this course in the hope that you will be able to meet the home expenditure of the Indian Government, in whole or part, by advances from Her Majesty's Government, to be adjusted when the expenditure of the Abyssinian expedition is accounted for.

We have, &c.,

WM. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

R. NAPIER.

B. H. ELLIS.

S. MANSFIELD.

No. 577.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 3d October 1867.

I beg to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying return of ships engaged in this country as transports for service in the Indian and Mediterranean Seas on account of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

W. R. MENDS.

Enclosure

List of SHIPS engaged as Transports for

Number.	Name of Ship.	Brokers.	Tons by Register.			Screw or Paddle.	Horse Power.	Speed in Knots.	Rates per Month.		Coals.			Accommodation.				
			Ex- clusive of Engine Room.	Engine Room.	Gross or Whole Ton- nage.				If dis- charged at home.	If dis- charged abroad.	Which can be stowed in bunkers.	Pro- bable con- sump- tion per diem.	Total quantity put on board.	For ordinary Service.		For present Service.		Horses or Mules.
														Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
* Ships for the Indian																		
Troop Ships.																		
1	City of Man- chester.	H. E. Moss & Co. -	1,303	610	1,019	S.	450	10	s. d. 35 0	s. d. 45 0	20	23	1,670	52	752	82	369	—
2	City of Dublin -	Ditto - - -	1,548	450	1,998	"	250	10	35 0	45 0	21	32	1,894	12	700	12	250	147
3	England - -	T. S. Begbie - -	2,607	700	3,307	"	350	12	35 0	45 0	20	60	2,310	60	1,464	50	900	—
4	Queen - - -	Ditto - - -	2,817	700	3,517	"	350	11½	37 6	45 0	15	80	2,128	57	1,248	57	890	—
5	Peruvian - -	T. M. Mackay, Sons, & Co. - - -	1,713	532	2,245	"	300	10	32 3	50 0	18	23	2,000	30	886	30	600	—
6	Kangaroo - -	H. E. Moss & Co. -	1,193	523	1,719	"	250	10	32 6	45 0	20	33	1,611	28	665	28	300	—
7	Californian -	W. I. & Pacific S. S. Co. - - -	1,286	545	1,831	"	200	9½	24 10	35 0	30	25	1,062	30	590	30	290	—
8	West Indian -	Ditto - - -	1,277	527	1,804	"	200	10	26 0	36 0	30	25	1,260	27	540	27	230	—
12	American - -	Ditto - - -	1,286	545	1,831	"	200	9½	24 10	35 0	30	25	1,366	29	590	29	290	—
13	Bosphorus - -	T. M. Mackay, Sons, & Co. - - -	1,680	450	2,130	"	280	10½	32 6	50 0	16	45	1,967	25	626	25	290	—
Commissariat Stores.																		
Hospital Ships.																		
9	Golden Fleeco -	A. Brett & Co. - -	2,091	677	2,768	"	300	10	30 0	45 0	30	30	983	33	464	4	30 attendants, 284 invalids.	—
10	Mauritius - -	Ditto - - -	1,451	683	2,134	"	300	10	30 0	45 0	18½	30	956	32	466	4	23 attendants, 211 invalids.	—
11	Queen of the South.	Ditto - - -	1,433	657	2,090	"	300	10	30 0	45 0	28	30	810	24	452	4	28 attendants, 200 invalids.	—
Mule Ships.																		
§ Ships for the Mediterranean Sea, ordered																		
14	Empress - -	Bake & Co. - - -	618	162	780	"	200	11	30 0	30 0	20	17	454	5	27	2	27	111 (9 spare stalls.)
15	Parana - -	Smith, Sundius, & Co.	1,025	295	1,320	"	180	9	25 0	25 0	18	15	350	3	40	2	27	240 (14 spare stalls.)
16	Coumoundou- ros.	J. Preston - - -	764	205	969	"	150	10	24 0	30 0	12	20	294	12	27	2	27	169 (15 spare stalls.)
17	Bolivar - -	W. I. & Pacific S. S. Co. - - -	962	217	1,179	"	160	9	30 0	35 0	10½	20	400	18	32	2	27	121 (18 spare stalls.)
18	Venetia - -	A. Laming & Co. -	513	241	754	"	150	9½	34 6	44 6	17	16	250	4	28	2	27	114 (9 spare stalls.)

* These transports are engaged for six months certain.

† The above-mentioned provisions comprise victualling and medical comforts of every description, except biscuit and flour, for 4,000 men for three months.

‡ Full supplies of provisions, medical comforts, hospital cots, hammocks, with the necessary bedding, rugs, sheets, &c., for the patients and attendants, have been put on board.

in No. 577.

Service in the Indian and Mediterranean Seas.

Shipped in each Vessel.					Place of Fitment.	Date of			Transport Officer.	Remarks
Provisions.	Bedding.	Other Stores.		Tanks lent by Government in addition to those supplied by Owners.		Acceptance.	Entry into Pay.	Sailing.		
			Description.							
Seas, ordered to Bombay.										
Tons.	Tons.	Tons, about		Tons (of Water).		1867.	1867.	1867.		
160†	30	89	India Office (salt meat, &c.)	24	Liverpool	30th Aug.	4th Sept.	18th Sept.	Boughey, Lieut.	Delay was occasioned by the quantity of coal to be put on board, strikes among the colliers, and strong weather, which retarded the passage of the steamers from the Thames with the provisions and tanks. The "City of Dublin" was seriously damaged by collision in the Mersey.
160†	30	—	" " " "	43	"	"	8th Sept.	27th Sept.	Bolitho, Lieut.	
—	—	385	India Office (clothing, tents, rifles, ammunition, &c.)	50	"	"	3d Sept.	12th Sept.	Aldrich, St. Commr.	
—	—	385	" " " "	52½	"	2d Sept.	7th Sept.	14th Sept.	Wise, C., Lieut.	
—	—	—	" " " "	83½	"	30th Aug.	4th Sept.	12th Sept.	Lewis, Lieut.	
160†	30	—	" " " "	24	"	"	6th Sept.	18th Sept.	Symons, St. Commr.	
160†	30	—	" " " "	76	"	31st Aug.	3d Sept.	17th/18th Sept. (midnight).	Parks, Lieut.	
160†	30	—	" " " "	76	"	"	18th Sept.	18th Sept.	Parkinson, Nav. Lieut.	
—	—	—	" " " "	76	"	3d Sept.	9th Sept.	15th Sept.	Brown, Lieut.	
—	—	—	" " " "	43	"	4th Sept.	10th Sept.	18th Sept.	Baker, Lieut.	
to Aden.										
‡	‡	430	India Office, and two steam launches from Portsmouth.	80	Victoria Docks.	31st Aug.	6th Sept.	29th Sept.	Scudamore, Nav. Lieut.	Half a ton of rifles and ammunition have been shipped in each vessel.
‡	‡	280	India Office - - -	80	"	"	"	1st October	Wise, E., Nav. Lieut.	
‡	‡	210	India Office, and one steam launch from Devonport.	80	"	"	"	30th Sept.	Green, Lieut.	
to Gibraltar, Alicante, and Valencia.										
	—	38	War Office (forage and sacks).	A proper supply of water has been put on board.	"	7th Sept.	12th Sept.	30th Sept.	Stuart, St. Commr.	
	—	38	" " "		"	4th Sept.	10th Sept.	25th Sept.	Going, Nav. Lieut.	
	—	38	" " "		"	"	16th Sept.	30th Sept.	Sullivan, Lieut.	
	—	38	" " "		Deptford	3d Sept.	10th Sept.	26th Sept.	Shuckburgh, Lieut.	
	—	38	" " "		"	"	"	"	Aylen, Nav. Lieut.	

§ These transports are engaged for three months certain.

|| Biscuits, rice, and a proportion of salt meat, for three months, for 25 muleteers, have been put on board of each of these vessels.

W. R. MENDES,

Director of Transport Services.

No. 578.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

War Office, 3d October 1867.

No. 503.

With reference to the letter from this Office dated 26th ultimo, transmitting a report from the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham, upon one of Norton's patent American wells, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, another report containing a full description of the well and apparatus, together with an account of the experiments which have been carried on at Chatham.

The return of the enclosure is requested.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 578.

Report by Lieutenant W. B. HURST, R.E., on Norton's American Tube Well.

This well consists of a hollow wrought-iron tube, the lower end of which, being provided with an eight-square point and perforated with a number of small holes, is driven by means of a monkey or weight into the ground.

The lower length is 11 feet long over all, of which the solid point is 10 inches long, and, being welded 2 inches into the lower end of the tube, leaves the hollow part of the tube 10 feet long. The holes extend up the tube in six parallel rows $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart, for a length of $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, their total area being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times that of the internal diameter of the tube, which is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, while its exterior diameter is $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

The weight per foot is about $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. The tubes sent down from London were in various lengths from 3 feet to 9 feet, and, having a screw thread cut in each end, can be jointed together by means of iron collars 2 inches long screwed over the ends, the joints being made good by means of white lead.

Driving the well. The position for the well being selected, a hole is made with a crowbar, perfectly vertical, in which the tube is inserted. A clamp of cast iron, faced on the top and inside with steel, having a groove in the centre of the size of the exterior diameter of the gas pipe, with a screw thread cut roughly inside so as to lay hold of the pipe made in two pieces capable of being tightened up by means of two screw bolts, is placed on a tube at a height of from 18 inches to 2 feet from the ground, according as the soil is difficult or easy, and screwed in firmly, care being taken to tighten each bolt equally.

The monkey, consisting of a hollow iron casting weighing about 75 lbs., with a couple of lugs, projecting one on either side, is next placed on the pipe, and, lastly, a couple of pulleys are clamped to the tube as high from the level of the ground as a man can conveniently reach, usually about six feet, a rope being rove through each pulley and secured to the lugs on the monkey. (See Sketch A.) The monkey is raised by two men, who should work steadily together, and pull the ropes at the same angle with the pipe, so as not to cause a tendency to it to lean over on one side more than on the other. The monkey may be steadied and assisted in its descent by a third man, who, standing on one side, forces it down at each descent. On the clamp reaching the level of the ground, the monkey is raised while the clamp is unscrewed and raised a height of 18 inches or 2 feet up the tube and again screwed up. The monkey is then lowered into the clamp, and the pulleys are fastened higher up the tube.

The tube during its descent should be occasionally turned round in the ground, so that the position of the angles of the edges of the point may continually be altered. The same man who does this should pay particular attention to the clamp, to see that it does not move on the tube, tightening up the bolts at the first appearance of any slipping.

When the tube is driven so far into the ground that its upper end is not sufficiently high to carry the pulleys a piece of pipe about 6 feet long (see Sketch B.), having a piece of tube 3 feet long, of the same exterior diameter ($1\frac{1}{4}$ inches) as its internal diameter, braced for a length of 18 inches into one end, and consequently projecting a length of 18 inches, is placed in the upper end of the tube, and the pulleys clamped into it at a convenient height. The driving is continued until the first tube is driven all but 2 or 3 inches, when the clamp, monkey, &c. are removed, and an additional length screwed in by means of a collar. This length is driven as before, care being taken to turn round the tube in the boring to tighten up the joints, which become loosened by the jarring of the monkey.

Before screwing in an additional length of pipe, the well is sounded by means of a small lead line, to ascertain the depth of water or character of rubbish which penetrates through the holes in driving.

As soon as it appears that the well is driven deep enough, a pump is screwed in at the top and the water drawn up. It usually happens that the water is at first turbid, but after a short time, as the chamber at the bottom of the well becomes enlarged, this turbidity ceases, and the water becomes pure.

When sinking in gravel or clay the bottom of the well frequently becomes filled up, and it is necessary to remove the obstruction before a pure supply of water can be obtained.

To do this a pipe of small diameter is lowered down the well (the pump being attached to its upper extremity) to within about one inch of the solid material (as ascertained by the lead).

Water is then poured down the outer tube, and jumped up the inner one, gradually washing away the surface of the material until the well is cleared out to the bottom, as ascertained by the length of the inner tube, which can then be removed and the pump screwed on to the well.

The pipes when sunk can be drawn at pleasure in two or three ways.

- 1st. The monkey is placed on the head of the pipe, and the clamp screwed on, near the top. By raising the monkey and striking the clamp a series of blows, the pipe is started and gradually drawn, the position of the clamp being shifted as required. (Sketch C.)
- 2d. A chain is passed once or twice round the pipe, one end passing through a ring at the other. A moveable link is then placed on the chain, and a lever or handspike inserted into the link; which tightening the chain round the pipe gradually lifts the well, the position of the chain being altered as required. (Sketch D.)

The following stores are required for sinking a well in addition to pipes, pump, &c.:—

		1 File.
		4 Gas tongs, pairs ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ", $1\frac{1}{4}$ ", 3", $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".)
		1 Crow bar, 5 ft.
		1 Spanner (for clamp).
		1 Wrench (for clamp of pulleys).
Estimated weight of stores	Lbs. 142	1 Chain, 3 ft. and link.
Weight of pump	24	*1 Monkey.
Weight of tubing for 20 ft. well	56	*1 Clamp.
		*1 Pair of pullies and clamp.
		1 Tool (6 ft. gas pipe with piece welded in).
		Gas pipe $1\frac{1}{4}$ in., weighs about $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. per foot.

Men required. Five men are required for driving a well quickly, allowing two men in two reliefs for working the monkey, while the fifth (a Non-commissioned Officer) steadies the monkey in its descent, attends to the clamp, and moves it and the pullies as required. Three men could drive a well very well, although requiring more time, as the labour of working the monkey is rather severe, unless reliefs are provided.

Two wells were bored at Chatham on the 22d of September, and one at Wouldham on the following day, each by a different party of men, who consequently knew nothing previously of the process; Mr. Norton's agent, Mr. Hawkesley, and two American gentlemen being present on all three occasions.

No. 1 Well. The first well was driven in soil consisting of clay, gravel, and large stones.

First pipe, 11 feet long, was driven in 30 minutes.

The second length, 9 feet long, in 39 minutes.

Water was now tried for and found, but not in sufficient quantities.

An additional length of pipe, 6 feet long, was then attached, and the driving continued, several hard strata being passed through until at 24 feet from the surface; for the next foot the driving was easier; and at 25 feet a copious supply of water was found, at first very thick, as if containing gravel or clay, but afterwards becoming whiter, leaving a slight deposit of chalk. If the pumping had been continued, the well would probably have cleared up. The point of the lower tube in being drawn was found uninjured.

No. 2 Well. This was sunk in solid chalk without accident, a depth of 17 feet being obtained in 1 hour 25 minutes. No water was obtained at that depth, and as it was then dark the pipes were drawn, the point being slightly turned, but to so small an extent that after being filed up for five minutes it was again used for No. 3 well.

No. 3 Well. This well was sunk at Wouldham, three miles from Rochester, in the valley of the Medway. The well was commenced and the apparatus working within 10 minutes of arriving on the ground.

The first 4 feet was driven in a few minutes through a fine loam, the next 7 feet required 47 minutes to drive, and after this, the strata becoming much harder, the progress was slower, as one of the screws of the clamp pulley having broken, time was lost in procuring one to replace it.

A total depth of 18 feet was attained in two hours, and 4 feet of water found in the well on plumbing it. Driving was then continued, and at 22 feet from the surface 8 feet 6 inches of water was found in the pipe. On the pump being applied the water came up with difficulty, and was thick and discoloured. In half an hour the quantity increased, and the water became purer. After pumping three hours, but a small quantity of chalk was brought up in solution, and the water was drinkable. The supply was at the rate of 10 gallons per minute, and, instead of diminishing, appeared to increase. This well was left in the ground.

W. B. HURST, Lieutenant, R.E.

September 25th, 1867.

No. 579.

The Acting Political Resident at Aden to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Aden, September 6, 1867.

I have the honour to report that Her Majesty's schooner "Fanny" arrived here yesterday morning, having left Massowah on the morning of the 1st instant. Letters have been received from Mr. Rassam to Colonel Merewether, dated Magdala, 24th and

* The stores marked thus, can be carried on the tool (the whole weighing about 100 lbs.) by two men.

27th July ; from Captain Cameron to Colonel Merewether, dated Magdala, 24th July ; three letters from Mr. Flad, dated Debra Tabor, June 11th, July 9th, and July 11th ; the first addressed to Colonel Merewether, the other two to Mr. Rassam ; extracts of letters from Mr. Flad to M. Munzinger, dated 7th May, 28th May, 9th July, and 11th July ; and four letters from Dr. Blanc for Colonel Merewether, dated respectively, Magdala, July 18th, July 19th, July 22nd, and July 24th. The two former copies "at length" are appended.

2. Mr. Rassam, writing on the 24th July, says, "I have at last succeeded in communicating with Debra Tabor ; of 10 different messengers, one of my servants, named Gosbo, managed to take letters and bring their answers, but even himself did not escape the rapacity of the rebels on returning. He managed to save the letters by having them hid in a bamboo, which he carried as a stick. I am sending this man to Massowah with these letters, together with another servant and a follower of Dejjaj Mirand, in order that they may bring us money ; I have told them that they must try and reach Massowah before the 17th proximo, when you intend to visit that point for the purpose of finding out whether the Emperor would send us down. I fear if England does not get us out by force of arms we shall have to spend many an August in this wretched state, and Wakshum Gobaze has done so little since he came up to this vicinity that I have lost all hope of ever leaving this country through the succour of the rebels, for whom I am beginning to have utter contempt. I do not believe there is a more cowardly race than these Abyssinian rebels, who allow themselves to be butchered and plundered and have no pluck to attack their common enemy, against whom they might take a force of not less than 100,000 men (that is to say, if all join), and I am certain with the handful of men His Majesty has now, and the disgust every one has for him, he would not be able to hold his ground one day. The rebel Chiefs talk very big, but do very little. We have not heard of the movements of Wakshum Gobaze since I last wrote to you in the beginning of this month ; all his big talk about attacking the Emperor and releasing the Bishop and myself and party has dwindled to nothing. One day we heard that he had made friends with the Walloo Gallas upon their promising to pay him tribute, and the next, it is reported that he had to retreat to Lasta for fear of the Gallas, who had gone to Yago to turn him out of it. However, whether he is powerful or weak, far or near, it is evident that he can render us no succour, and even if he manage to get us out the chances are he will follow the example of Theodorus by keeping us and trying to get what he can out of the British Government. Another private messenger has arrived from the Emperor who has brought us compliments from His Majesty. In his letter to the Chiefs of this garrison he says, 'Inform my friend Aitoo Rassam of the glad tidings of my faithful subjects of Agou Mader having repulsed the attack of a great rebel of Gojam, and of the destruction of the Gondar rebel and his party who had plundered his messenger in Waggara.' He said also that he would not 'forsake' me. He alluded to Daftara Dusta, who had lost 300 dollars while he was coming up from Massowah in August last. It is so difficult for messengers to travel between this place and Massowah for the next 40 days that I do not intend to send down again before the beginning of September, unless indeed I shall have something important to communicate : so farewell until then."

On the 27th of July Mr. Rassam writes :—

"As the messengers have not been able to start before now on account of not finding a proper escort to conduct them through Dalanta, I am enabled to add a few lines. The new King of Shoa has sent to say that he intends to capture this fortress, and asked for the Metropolitan's blessing. He is a mere boy, and writes like a child. He could no more come so far than he could go to Massowah ; and the very name of Theodorus would make him hide himself under his mother's dress. His Majesty has sent to say that he would be here in four or five days ; but there is as much chance of seeing him here before the middle of September (at the earliest) as there is in seeing you here,—unless, indeed, he leaves everything behind (which he cannot possibly do), and comes here himself alone with a few followers."

3. Captain Cameron, who generally writes so cheerfully, appears now to be becoming despondent ; he writes as follows :—"I merely write to thank you for the news about the column. Your letter has the right ring about it, and has given me some hopes ; but I am wearing out, and have to fight with myself day and night to prevent my giving way altogether. I shall still, however, cherish the hope of living to shake you by the hand in a few months. The rains have set in, and the constant streams from the floor of my room seem to be poisoning me. These things are difficult to

“ remedy ; courage and patience must be my watchword for some time longer ; never
 “ mind, pray come and get us out, and all will be well.”

4. Mr. Flad, writing to Colonel Merewether, on the 11th of June, says :—

“ What will you think has become of me when you, up till now, have not received a single line from me ? I hope that you will have heard the news of my safe arrival here from Mr. Rassam long ago. I was very anxious to send immediately, but it was impossible : no way—all in rebellion against the King. No safety all around us. To-morrow merchants are going to Massowah with an escort of the King as far as Ifag, and I hope that our messenger will get on with them. The King’s soldiers are deserting in every direction, but still he has left an army of 10,000 or more soldiers, chiefly gunners. If it will go so well with him a month or two more, he will reach a certain point advantageous to the British Government. His last deeds were plundering Dembea Dagusa and part of Begemeder, and to slaughter, in about a fortnight 1,000,000 of cows and oxen. No one was allowed to keep a cow, even for milk ; thousands of people were executed in one week in our neighbourhood ; the wives and children, even, of some soldiers who had run away were not spared. We are living in constant fear of death, and in scarcity of food, water, and wood ; a small hut, which even gives us not a good protection against the rains, is our all. The articles of Mr. Rassam I brought with me are still here. The 1,000 dollars are, I believe, not yet paid by His Majesty. No communication between this and Magdala. There are about 10 servants of the European prisoners here, and no road for them to return to their masters. I believe Abyssinia never was so bad as it is at present. Regarding our affair, the King does not say much, but he is grieved that he did not get the artizans and machinery. To Mr. Waldmeier and companions he once said : ‘ Did you hear the private message Mr. Flad had for me from Her Majesty the Queen of England ? But now, if they don’t come and fight for Mr. Rassam, I shall defy them and depise every white man.’ On the 8th instant Isherry arrived ; he was plundered three hours from here. Your letters are left at Derite, where they have to remain until His Majesty sends for them. On the 9th, when he saw me, he said, ‘ Though the English are too proud to send me workmen, God has given me, in Mr. Waldmeier and Saalmuller, workmen who can do every work for me ; but I tell you if they don’t come now and fight for their Mr. Rassam I shall keep him and force them to give me what I want from them. I have Mr. Rassam in my hands ; what shall I fear ? I have them in my hands.’ To me he said, ‘ I know you did not come back in the fire for my sake, but for your wife’s and children’s sake, to die with them ; still I will not be angry with you, because you have brought me an answer.’ To this I said, it was true I came back because I love my wife and children, but at the same time I had confidence in him, that he would not be angry with me for having brought him an answer from Her Majesty the Queen. Regarding Her Majesty’s Government, I said that they had no intention of war if they can settle this affair in peace, and that the artizans and machinery are waiting for his order at Massowah according to Her Majesty’s letter ; and it would be a pity if those clever men and useful machines would not come to your Majesty’s Court. To this he said, ‘ Well, we must see the letter ; if we can get it, perhaps we can get them all.’ As far as I can judge, the King does not want artizans ; what should he want with them before he governs his country again ? According to the Abyssinian prophecy, he will again conquer Abyssinia, and have a happy reign of 20 years. Whether His Majesty will send an answer to Her Majesty’s letter and to yours is very doubtful. As far as I can judge, a political change must take place this rainy season.”

On the 9th of July Mr. Flad writes to Mr. Rassam as follows :—

“ The country people all around us are in rebellion against His Majesty, on which account the road is made unsafe. Yours and Captain Cameron’s messengers arrived here naked, being deprived of their clothing and the mules by the peasants. All of us enjoy good health. His Majesty, though vexed fearfully by his soldiers and rebellious Begemeder population, has been hitherto very kind to every one of us. Though His Majesty in the last six weeks has killed above 3,000 men, soldiers, and peasants, they are still so obstinate that they yet will not obey his orders, but prefer rather to die than to pay to His Majesty the tribute he asks them to pay. His Majesty kindly gave us a place below the new church in the hedge, in order that we may not be disturbed or insulted at night by thieves or rebels who surround us. His Majesty supplies us with cows and sheep, so we have plenty to eat. His Majesty made some angry expressions about the English Government, because they did send the instruments, machinery, and machines only as far as Massowah, and not directly to His Majesty’s Court, as his wish was. His Majesty is at present at Madracha ; he has taken Messrs. Waldmeier

and Saalmuller with him. A large mortar, called Sebastopol, is in work. They are hard at work. No road between here and Massowah for a long time."

On the 11th of July Mr. Flad tells Mr. Rassam that "the King is expected back to-day; we have already plenty of rain day and night; fearful thunderstorms."

5. In writing to M. Munzinger on the 7th May, Mr. Flad says:—

"The general opinion is that the King will put all Europeans to death as soon as English troops land. This is possible, but I doubt it much. It would, I think, be well, nay, even necessary, that the Government, when making a Proclamation, should say nothing of its intention to punish the King. Any hostile wording would make him lose whatever occult hopes he may entertain, and would only lead him on to vengeance. Have nothing to do with the rebels before you are in the country itself. State in the Proclamation that you are coming to fight against the King, in order to force him to surrender the prisoners. It is certain that the King conceals very well-calculated ends by his obstinacy. As long as the Government does not treat with the rebels the prisoners have nothing to fear. M. Bardel is in high favour, and is always at the camp. A letter of mine to my wife was intercepted on the road, and given to him to translate. In doing this he concealed everything which might have caused injury. We are all living in tents. Gaffat is deserted. We have rain daily."

On the 28th of May Mr. Flad writes as follows to M. Munzinger:—

"Every day fresh desertions: it is said that during the last three days 1,200 men have left the King. Mr. Mority has been in chains for a week; the cause is unknown. We are strictly guarded, and surrounded by soldiers."

On the 2nd of July Mr. Flad writes:—

"The King has about 8,000 soldiers. All the country round is in a state of rebellion."

On the 9th he continues:—

"I am very much annoyed at not being able to send my letters. I fear also that Colonel Merewether and others might place a wrong construction on the cause of my long silence: we are in perpetual fear of our lives. The King during the last six weeks has had 4,000 persons put to death, soldiers and peasants, either burning them, or cutting their throats like beasts, or shooting them. He has caused women and children to be tortured, dishonoured, and starved in an unheard-of manner. The King asks no more about the telescope, and it is always in my possession. Mr. Rassam's things are still here. Essler, Schiller, and Makerer are pretty well, but suffer much at times. The King had five of their servants executed for having concealed their masters' projects. Provisions are very expensive here—three or four blocks of salt for one thaler, &c. Dysentery is making great ravages in the camp. McKelvy is very ill, and I have small hopes of his recovery. Our existence here is very miserable; with difficulty we procure the common necessities of life."

"July 11.—The King has caused several thousand deserters (soldiers) to be executed. Everything here is miserable, and the daily fear of death. No one can proceed further than one mile without an escort. The King treats me well, but is cold and indifferent. It appears he is not likely to yield. He says, 'As long as I have Rassam, the English nation, which does not like war, will give me what I wish.'"

6. Dr. Blanc's letter of the 22nd July contains the following:—

"The camp (King's) is surrounded by a strong fence. The King is obliged to go out himself with the musqueteers to protect the camp followers when they collect wood, otherwise they would be cut to pieces. The King's residence is strongly fenced. A platform has been erected at the top of the hill for the guns. They are fired when, in the absence of the King, the peasants attack the camp. Europeans are in a hedge near the King, enclosed in his own fence. He has consecrated his new church, and is building near it a large house for his prisoners. He has but few soldiers, but a great number of starved peasants, who follow him on the plundering expeditions. On the road they murder one another, to rob what the more fortunate have been able to plunder. Soldiers even kill one another for the same purpose. Two of the Europeans have gone with the King to Antracho to build rafts and fire the cannon on the people of the island if they attempt to decamp in their boats. Some of Rassam's servants, who had been plundered in May, returned. The King gave them neither clothes nor food. Hailo, the messenger to the King, was very sick. These accounts differ greatly from the supposed messenger's. Bardel has never been chained; is still in favour. In a country where any servant or messenger will make up a tale to please his master it is quite impossible to know the truth. Fancy, we do not know at the present time whether some months ago the Bishop excommunicated the King or not! How can we know anything certain of what takes

place a few miles from here? Send me, please, some Indian papers. There is no fear of the King whatever for the present; if he comes it will be known far and wide, and the messenger can be instructed to do away with them should this happen. Samuel begs to send his respectful compliments."

"July 24.—Last evening the servant of one of the prisoners, the same who is said to have come some time ago from the King, arrived. He brought stale news, but the mountain people made such a fuss about it that I am more sceptical than ever. The message he brought was, 'I have killed the rebel who seized your things at Gondar, and my faithful subjects of Agoumedar have killed a large number of rebels who came to attack them.' Both facts were known, only the King had nothing to do with the killing of Kassa Zoualon, who, with 200 of his kinsmen, fell by treachery in Dembea. The Agoumedar people defended their country against an officer of Tadla Zoualon, not out of love for the King, but simply because they preferred being their own masters. Nothing could show more the great weakness of the King and his friends than this fuss made about nothing at all. Gobaze has settled the Yadgon question satisfactorily, the son of Ras Mariay being acknowledged Governor by them. Gobaze is said to have returned to Lasta for the winter: so much for the Bishop's influence. Chiefs and petty Chiefs begin to quarrel here."

7. M. Munzinger writes from Massowah on the 31st of August—"I received news from Bogos which forced me to return, having been absent from this (Massowah) from the 17th to the 20th of August. The schooner 'Fanny' arrived here on the evening of the 27th; she will sail to-morrow morning at an early hour. I will again send Mr. Rassam some money, but unfortunately the last messengers who started with some of this valuable commodity encountered the greatest difficulty on the road, and have been obliged to remain for a season in Tigré. During my absence, bearers of letters from Magdala of the 27th July had arrived. I will send them back to-morrow with some money. Mr. Flad not having discovered any means of expediting messengers, writes to me *via* Magdala; his last date is 11th of July. I enclose a few extracts."

8. The last mail from Bombay, which arrived here on the morning of the 4th instant, brought me instructions from Colonel Merewether to have as many camels as are procurable collected in as short a time as possible. I sent for Mr. Hassan Ali, the Government Contractor in the Public Works Department, the same afternoon, and gave him orders on this subject; the following day he sent agents in all directions into the interior, and over to the opposite coast of Africa, for the purpose of collecting all the camels they could. Colonel Merewether also sent me an immediate letter for M. Munzinger, the Acting British Consul at Massowah, requesting him to procure all available carriage. A native boat was engaged in the afternoon, and started early on the morning of the 5th with Colonel Merewether's letters, some newspapers and letters for the captives, and a letter from myself to M. Munzinger, asking him to forward any intelligence there might be by the same boat. The Nacoda expects to make the voyage there and back in seven or eight days.

I have, &c.,
H. B. ABBOTT.

P. S., *September 12, 1867.*—Letters have been received from your Lordship to Colonel Merewether's address; these await Colonel Merewether's return from Bombay. Colonel Merewether is expected to arrive here about the 18th or 20th of this month.

H. B. A.

Enclosure 1 in No. 579.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

You will have seen by the two small notes enclosed in my two last letters, what the King's two great rivals proposed to undertake. I was not wrong when I took it to be simply boasting. From the first nothing more has been heard; the second sent another messenger, who told the Bishop, on the part of his master, "you know that we cannot take forts, so it would be useless for me to come; but give me your blessing, and I will go and attack my blood enemy." The required blessing was duly given, but though a fortnight ago, this would-be hero still remains in the Yedjon's country. Some say that he is acknowledged by them, and has appointed the son of Ras Marié (brother of Ras Aali) as Governor of the province; whilst others report that a large section of the population still in arms resist his authority, and have called upon the Queen of the Gallas to render them assistance.

Magdala, July 18, 1867.

It is generally reported that she has gone in that direction, but whether for peace or war is doubtful, though Gallas seldom fight far from their own country; and probably as the rival Queen is to be befriended by Shoa she will endeavour to form an alliance with Gobazi. Whatever may be his position in Yedjon, acknowledged or not, he will far less attack the King than this mountain; the fallen and humble lion is, even in his weakness, much more dreaded than all the ambas of Abyssinia put together. Gobazi is rising, the King is falling; the first knows well that the King can no more march against him, and must before very long retire here or run to the low country, so Gobazi quietly waits until, by mere necessity, the whole of the Amhara must recognize him. His messages to the Bishop are the natural consequences of his birth, all Abyssinians being story-tellers and boasters, and the greater the man the more he indulges in such freaks. That Gobazi is morally no better, quite as treacherous as the King, a fact that happened a few days ago clearly proves. You remember Rasadiloo, the Yedjon chief about whom I wrote to you some time ago. He went to the Wakshum, was well received and told to remain as a friend and guest, but a few days ago he was seized by his order and put in chains—a simple measure of precaution. This is not the man into whose hands I would like to fall. Before long we would find that we have simply exchanged gaolers; with him or with the King, only one thing will succeed. Should any false hopes lull into imaginary expectations, and the proposed steps be postponed, not only ourselves will have reason to lament the change, but more so Government, who after renewed negotiations will have some day to send troops into this country to liberate or avenge; but of evil good comes. I believe we might out of the Wakshum reap great advantages. This is what I mean; the King, though fallen very low, though surrounded by large bodies of rebels on all sides, though he cannot communicate any more with this fortress, still can come here whenever he likes, and I fear will; although, as I have formerly stated, he must lose by that move the greater part of his remaining army. His staying at Debra Tabor or coming here materially influences our positions; our lives would be saved on the one hand, probably lost on the other. Moreover, for an army, it would simplify matters exceedingly. In every respect it is so important to keep him from entering Magdala before the arrival of the force that any reasonable plan ought to be tried to obtain that end. What I would suggest is this: in a few days the rivers will be full, and until the 15th or 20th September he cannot cross them. Should Gobazi be induced to come here by that date (he is only three days' distance), and encamp around the amba as if he was laying siege to it, then the King will not come; though the bravest, he is too weak to venture to attack him; as very few indeed would follow him even the first stage if they know that Gobazi was between the Bechiloo and Magdala. The amba would doubtless surrender, but should it hold out until the arrival of our troops we would be in perfect safety, and probably well treated when it would be known that our countrymen are marching to deliver us. Should you approve of this plan, after all a very simple and feasible one, its execution would offer no difficulty; you would have only to despatch at once a trusty messenger to Gobazi, who would be in the present political condition of the country only too happy to act according to your wishes, if he is made aware that troops are in readiness, and arrive what may, in October they will land.

He requires neither guns nor anything of the kind; he need not attempt to take the mountain: what we want is his presence in the neighbourhood, it will be sufficient to keep away the King; and I am almost certain from what our guards say that he would not be a fortnight below before the soldiers would open the gates, however opposed the chiefs themselves might be to such a step. Even should Wakshum Gobazi not comply with your request (a point on which I have however not the slightest doubt) communications are so thoroughly interrupted that the King could not possibly hear of your corresponding with him.

The Bishop, always sanguine, put the utmost credence in the first message of Gobazi, spoke to his friends and made a plan to open our chains and supply us with arms; it was rash, because, should the King come some one is certain to betray the others in order to gain favour in the eyes of the despot. Samuel and many of the best men on the mountain would certainly forfeit their lives.

No news whatever, only rumours more or less worthy of credence. The King is said to have buried his big guns, and afterwards to have murdered the labourers, so that they should not reveal the spot. Kфра Goolon, the Kamante rebel of Tchelga, is said to have invaded Koura, the King's native land. Dembea people are said to have sent a deputation to Gobazi, requesting him to protect them. The King proclaimed that in future all those who did not submit he would execute (nothing new); made a sortie and butchered every man, woman, and child he caught.

The Dahoute people will not have anything to do with the Wakshum, because they say the locust always follows in his wake. If we up here know nothing, how is it that they are so wise and well informed at Bekes Burn, and such other similar places?

I have just heard that the Queen of the Gallas has agreed to pay tribute to Gobazi; he is to have Dalanta, the Queen Dahoute, he is not to enter the Galla country unless called upon by the Queen in defence of her country. This makes him very strong; he cannot have less, with his Galla allies, than 50,000 men, of whom 3,000 are armed with muskets, but the whole host would scatter like chaff before the first shell.

Believe me, &c.,
H. BLANC.

Enclosure 2 in No. 579.

Dr. BLANC to Lieutenant-Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, July 19, 1867.

I have just spoken to Samuel about your asking Gobaze to come here; he is quite delighted at the idea, and says, "If Colonel Merewether does it, you are all safe. I myself thought of it and told 'Gobaze's servant, when he came here, to tell his master to make friends with the English, that they 'only wanted their people and cared not for the amba and its treasures; but Gobaze will not believe 'what an Abyssinian tells him: it is very different if it comes from your people.'" He says that if

you agree to the idea, no time ought to be lost. The letter should be written in this strain. Theodorus has imprisoned our people; after the rainy season Queen Victoria's soldiers will be sent to rescue them; if your desire to be great in your country, through our friendship, go to Dalanta and remain there till we come. We know that you have not the means of taking ambas, for us it is easy; all we require of you is that you will not allow Theodorus to enter Magdala before our arrival. Samuel says that the King is afraid of Gobazi and will not come if he is here. At the same time, should it come to nothing, and the King be here when the troops land, you must come single-handed, because, if in alliance with his blood enemy, he knows he has no pity to expect from him, and, in his despair, will proceed to extremities. Should the above succeed, we would not be so unlucky after all.

I have, &c.,
H. BLANC.

No. 580.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 3d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, upon the requisition of the Assistant Adjutant-General of the Royal Engineers, instructions have been given for the issue of the articles named in the margin,* for use of detachments of the Depôt Companies, Royal Engineers, and of the Royal Engineer Train, proceeding on the Abyssinian expedition.

*2 pairs gold wheels.
52 gold 1-bar good-conduct badges.
28 worsted 1-bar " "
6 " 2-bar " "
12 sets Corporals' gold chevrons.
24 " 2d do. " "
14 " Lance do. " "
3 Sergeants' serge frocks.
41 rank and file " "
81 all ranks serge trousers.
44 Indian helmets.
6 pairs bootings.

I am, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 581.

The Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 3d October 1867.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them your letter of September 25th, relative to the financial arrangements between the Indian and Imperial Governments, in respect of the expedition to Abyssinia, transmitting copy of a Despatch which it is proposed to send to the Government of Bombay on the subject. No. 490

I am to state, that my Lords fully accept the understanding adopted by the Secretary of State in Council with regard to the financial arrangements in connexion with the expedition, and desire to express their sense of their readiness to allow the ordinary pay of the troops to remain a charge on Indian revenues.

My Lords perceive, with much satisfaction, that no objection will be made on the part of the Indian Government to the appointment of a gentleman, as proposed in the Minute of their Lordships of the 17th ultimo, for the purpose of facilitating the examination of the accounts; and they will not fail to inform that Government of the nature of the instructions which will be issued to him.

My Lords have no objections to offer to the instructions proposed to be sent to the Governor of Bombay in conformity with the enclosed draft.

I am to request that my Lords may be furnished with three specimens of the Maria Theresa dollars, in order that they may be submitted to a proper assay.

I am, &c.,
G. A. HAMILTON.

No. 582.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 3d October 1867.

The Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham being engaged in fitting up signalling and photographic equipment for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will move the Secretary of State for India in Council to cause directions to be given for the issue, on loan, to the above-named Officer of four pack-saddles, "Otago pattern," with a view to the equipment for transport on them being fitted up.

These pack-saddles will be returned as soon as done with.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 583.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

War Office, 3d October 1867.

I am directed by Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the following documents relative to the three hospital ships now on the passage to the Red Sea, for service with the Abyssinian expedition :—

1. List of the hospital equipment placed on board each vessel.
2. List of provisions and medical comforts for hospital use on board.
3. Nominal list of the Staff of Officers (Medical and purveying), and of the Non-commissioned Officers and privates of the Army Hospital Corps.
4. Copy of the instructions issued to the Assistant Purveyor on board each vessel.

I am to add that, in order to ensure a supply of fresh meat and other articles which may be required for the use of the sick received on board for treatment, it will be necessary that the local authorities at the port where the vessel may be stationed should be instructed to arrange for a regular supply, on the requisition of the Purveying Officer, approved by the Senior Surgeon; and that the Assistant Purveyor should also be provided with the necessary funds to enable him to make purchases (in case of the vessels having to call at a port where there is no agent of the Indian Government,) and to pay the Army Hospital Corps, and other hospital servants employed on board (of whom he is, under Royal Warrant, the Paymaster, &c.).

It is also considered desirable that instructions should be issued for bringing the Staff, as detailed on list No. 3, on the establishment of the Expeditionary Force, in order that their pay, &c. may be filled in on their arrival out. Each officer should produce a certificate showing the date up to which he was paid in this country, and the Assistant Purveyor the reports and pay documents of the Army Hospital Corps from the Paymaster by whom the detachment of the Corps on board was last paid.

It is presumed that the local authorities will determine whether, in the event of further supplies being required for any of the hospital ships, the same should be procured locally, in whole or in part, or demanded from England by the Purveyor; and it is suggested that instructions should be issued so that Native assistance, if required, either by the Medical or Purveyor's Department on board, for the service of the hospitals, may be provided on the requisition of the Assistant Purveyor, approved by the Medical Officer in charge.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 583.

LIST of STORES ordered to be shipped on board each of the three Hospital Ships for the Abyssinian Expedition, viz., "Golden Fleece," "Mauritius," and "Queen of the South."

Axes:		Brushes:		Clothing:	
Broad, 5 lb., handled -	1	Shoe, sets, 1 blacking or		Cholera belts, white	
2 lb., handled, Canada		soft -	10	flannel -	1,000
pattern -	3	" " 1 shining or		Cooks' clothing suits,	
		polish -	10	medium -	12
Baths:		Whitewash, 6 oz. -	6	Ditto ditto, small -	12
Slipper, tin -	4	Clamps, dry rubbing -	40	Candlesticks, brass, flat -	6
Open, portable, ditto -	4	Blocks, wood, for ditto -	10	Choppers, meat -	2
Foot, half decked, ditto -	8	Irons for ditto -	10	Corkscrews, folding -	12
Hip, tin -	2	Handles for ditto -	10	Colander, 1 gallon, tin -	3
Arm, ditto -	4	Bier Palls, black velvet -	1	Combs:	
Brunel's -	2	Bowls, shaving, wooden -	20	Hair, horn, 8 in. -	200
Baskets:		Belts and gloves for re-		Small-tooth, 3½ in. -	100
Hand, large -	3	straining lunatics -	2	Castors, pepper, pewter -	12
" small -	3	Bearers, hospital, consisting		Cleavers -	2
Bottle, 1 dozen -	4	of:		Cups or pots, zinc, spitting	150
" ½ dozen -	6	Bottoms or sackings, can-		Cups, eggs, pewter -	20
" ward -	2	vas -	6	Chisels, ripping -	
Basins:		Pillows, hair -	6	Chests, tool -	
Wash-hand, block tin -	40	Poles, pairs -	6		
Pewter, for sores, 9 in. -	100	Slings, leather, pairs -	6	Dishes:	
Wash-hand, zinc, 9 in. -		Boards for bedhead ticket -	200	Soap, round, metal or	
Enamelled, blue, pint -	250	Boards for diet scale -	12	wood -	50
Bedding:		Boards:		Meat, tin, 18 in. -	20
Beds, hair, barrack -	50	Inventory -	20	" " 13½ in. -	20
(In addition to the supply		Knife -	6	Bread baking tins -	50
of hammocks, beds, and		Pastry -	2	Dredgers, flour, tin -	2
pillows put on board by		Blacking, tins of -	36		
the Admiralty.)		Boilers or kettles, cast		Forks:	
Pillows, hair, large -	50	iron, with brass taps,		Carving, large -	2
" " small -	60	4 gallons -	8	" small -	6
Paillasse, for straw, or		Chairs, night, with Fyfe's		Dinner -	200
bed cases for hair or		patent pail and pan, com-		Flesh, large -	2
straw (barrack) -	200	plete -	5	" small -	2
Cases for pillows, large -	200	Camp stools -	25	Toasting -	2
" small -	50	Cans:		Filters, stoneware, water,	
Case, slip, for H.P. hair		Beer, 2 gallons -	20	in wicker -	6
bed (barrack) -	300	Milk or gruel, 3 gallons,		Funnels, tin:	
Case, slip, for H.P. pil-		with lids -	6	Quart -	1
lows (large), and		Water or soup, 3 gallons	30	Pint -	2
feather -	400	Oil feeders, 2 pints -	4	½ pint -	1
Cases, slip, for H.P. pil-		" 2 quarts -		Gill -	1
lows, small -	150	Clothing:		Feeders for sick men,	
Cords for bed pulls -	100	Caps, night, white cot-		earthenware -	30
Handles for bed pulls -	100	ton -	100		
Blankets, barrack -	500	" day, blue, woollen -	300	Games:	
Sheets, cotton -	1,500	Drawers, cotton -	200	Chess boards -	4
Counterpanes, surgical,		" flannel -	350	" sets of men -	4
check, or rugs (bar-		Gowns, blue serge -	200	" boxes for -	4
rack) -	300	" cotton -	250	Draught boards -	6
Bedcovers, waterproof,		Handkerchiefs, pocket,		" sets of men -	6
small -	250	cotton -	600	" boxes for -	6
Hair for beds, lbs. -	300	Neckerchiefs -	450	Backgammon boards -	6
Boxes:		Shirts, white cotton -	1,200	" sets of men -	6
Salt, wainscot -	2	" for tropics -	800	" boxes for -	6
Coal, 4-bushel, iron -	4	Socks, pairs, worsted -	500	" cubes -	24
Pepper, pewter, ½ lb. -	2	" cotton -	600	" boxes, dice -	12
Brush, with tray -	4	Slippers, H.P., brown		Dominoes, sets of -	12
Black lead, sets, 1 round	6	leather, pairs -	300	" boxes for -	12
" " " 1 stove -	6	Slippers, list, with lea-		Solitaire boards -	6
Brushes:		ther soles, pairs -	50	" balls, sets of -	6
Flesh -	2	Trowsers, lined, blue		" boxes for -	6
Hand, scrubbing -	50	serge -	200	Glasses, looking -	24
Hair -	150	" cotton -	250	Graters, bread, tin -	2
Heads, long, sweeping -	30	Waistcoat, blue serge -	200	Gridirons, fluted, H.P.,	
Handles for ditto -	30	" cotton -	250	patent enamelled -	2
Hand, sweeping or dust -	25	Braces, cotton -	250		
Shaving -	10				

Hasps and staples - - -	6	Pots:		Trays:	
Hammers, claw, 20 oz. - -	2	Chamber, zinc, round - -	150	Dressing, surgical, tin,	
Hooks, meat:		Coffee, small, tin - - -	6	japanned - - -	4
Gamble - - - - -	3	Mustard, pewter - - -	6	Tin dinner (hot water) -	6
Swivel - - - - -	4	Tea, tin, 2 sizes - - -	20	Tubs:	
Round, 8½ in. - - -	4	Pails, slop, with covers -	10	18 gallon - - - - -	2
Flat, 5 in - - - - -	4	Pins, rolling - - - - -	2	12 " - - - - -	2
Infusers, tea, 2 gallons -	20	Plates:		8 " - - - - -	3
Inhalers, pewter - - -	6	Pewter - - - - -	150	4 " - - - - -	6
" tubes for - - - - -	6	Tin - - - - -	100	Traps, rat - - - - -	6
Kettles:		Porringers:		Urinals, pewter - - -	50
Fish - - - - -	2	Blood, large, pewter - -	4		
Cooking, nests of (8 in		" small, ditto - - -	4	Weighing machines:—	
a nest) - - - - -	1	Razors, with guards,		For flour, ¼ oz. to 14 lbs.,	
Tea, tin, of sizes - - -	6	Plantagenet pattern - -	12	with weights complete	2
Knives:		Razors - - - - -	12	For groceries, ¼ oz. to	
Carving, large - - - -	2	Rollers for round towels -	24	7 lbs., ditto, ditto - -	1
" small - - - - -	6	Brackets, iron, for ditto,		For articles in bulk,	
Dinner - - - - -	200	pairs - - - - -	24	7 lbs. to 500 lbs., ditto,	
Bread - - - - -	4	Saucepans, tin, of sizes,		ditto - - - - -	1
Butchers', 10-inch - - -	2	1 quart, 3 quarts, 6		For meat, ¼ oz. to 14 lbs.,	
For opening meat tins -	12	quarts - - - - -	24	with enamelled slab or	
Ladles:		Spoons:		pan, ditto, ditto - -	2
1 quart, tin - - - - -	4	Table, German silver - -	200	Washing machine - - -	1
1 pint, ditto - - - - -	4	Tea, ditto - - - - -	20	Warmers:	
Lanterns, tale or horn - -	3	Mustard, ivory - - - -	12	Foot, pewter - - - - -	20
Lamps, hand, agitable - -	12	Gravy, iron, tinned - -	4	Stomach, ditto - - - -	20
Locks, pad, iron:—		Medicine, pewter - - -	100	Mangle - - - - -	1
Middle size - - - - -	6	Salt cellars, wood - - -	12	Bakery:	
Small ditto - - - - -	6	Saws:		Dough kneading ma-	
Measures:		Meat, 14 in., tenon, iron		chines - - - - -	1
Glass, graduated, 4 oz. -	20	back - - - - -	4	" Knives - - - - -	2
Wine, ½ pint, pewter - -	2	Butchers', 19 in., ditto,		" Brushes - - - - -	2
" gill, ditto - - - - -	4	ditto - - - - -	4	" Scrapers - - - - -	2
" Half gill, ditto - - -	4	Hand - - - - -	4	" Baskets, lined	
Porter, 1 quart, ditto -	2	Scissors, hair cutting, 7" -	20	with tin - - - - -	2
" 1 pint - - - - -	100	Shapes:		Sieves, wire - - - - -	2
Milk, 1 quart, or dippers,		Pudding, quart, tin - -	200	" hair - - - - -	2
tin - - - - -	2	" pint, ditto - - - -	160	Strainers, tin - - - -	2
" 1 pint, ditto - - - -	4	Shovels:		Rasps - - - - -	2
" ½ pint, tin - - - - -	2	Dust, tin - - - - -	25	Peels - - - - -	2
Oil, ½ gallon, ditto - -	1	Universal pattern, helved	2	Mosquito net, pieces -	6
" quart, ditto - - - -	1	Scoops:		Screw-driver, handled -	6
" 1 pint, ditto - - - -	1	Hand, quart, tin - - -	2	Shot for burying dead -	300
" ½ pint, ditto - - - -	1	" pint, ditto - - - -	4	(Also a supply of used	
" 1 gill, ditto - - - -	1	" ½ pint, ditto - - -	2	hammocks).	
" ½ gill, ditto - - - -	1	Skewers, with chains -	20	Sticks, walking, strong -	50
Mills for hydrostatic per-		" iron, on hangers		Wire meat covers:	
colater - - - - -	1	(12 to a set),		Large - - - - -	4
Mills, coffee - - - - -	1	sets - - - - -	12	Small - - - - -	4
Mugs for medicines, tin,		Slates, large - - - - -	4	Washing boards - - -	8
½ pints - - - - -	20	Slices, fish, tin - - -	2	" brushes - - - - -	12
Mugs, drinking, 1 pint, tin	250	Sponges, bath - - - -	24	Clothes pegs - - - - -	1,000
Mallets, small, for driving	1	Steamers, potato, large,		" Lines, yards - - -	500
Mat, door, coir fibre,		for two-gallon saucepan -	1	" Baskets - - - - -	3
3' x 2' - - - - -	20	Strainers:		" Bags (bags for	
Mop heads, with nails -	50	Hair - - - - -	2	bedding) - - - - -	12
Handles for ditto - - -	12	Gravy, wire - - - - -	2	Flannel, yards - - -	100
Napkins, ophthalmia - -	250	Stools, close, with Fyfe's		Arm chairs - - - - -	10
Nets:		pail and pan, complete -	26	Refrigerators - - - -	1
Potatoe, large - - - - -	25	Strops, razor - - - - -	4	Buttons:	
" middling - - - - -	20	Steels:		Bone, gross - - - - -	3
" small - - - - -	20	Butcher - - - - -	2	Linen, ditto - - - - -	3
Pans:		Common, for sharpening		Metal, ditto - - - - -	3
Bed, zinc or pewter - -	40	knives - - - - -	4	Thread:	
For Fyfe's patent pail,		Scissors, lamp - - - -	6	Packing, large, lbs. -	2
earthenware - - - - -	20	Towels:		" middling, ditto -	2
Stew, with covers, 1 quart	2	Hand - - - - -	1,000	" small, ditto - - -	2
" " 2 " - - - - -	6	Round - - - - -	100	Whited brown, lbs. -	3
" " 1 gall. - - - - -	6	Trays:		White, lb. - - - - -	1
" " 2 " - - - - -	6	Wooden, dinner, Royal		Blue, lbs. - - - - -	2
Frying - - - - -	2	Marine pattern - - -	20	Worsted for socks, lbs. -	10
		Bed, wood, for bedridden		Cotton, darning, ditto -	3
		patients - - - - -	5	Needles:	
				Darning, gross - - -	½

Needles :				Awls :				Sole leather, lbs. -	112
Packing, gross -	-	$\frac{1}{2}$		Swing -	-	12		Inner ditto, ditto -	28
6's and 7's, ditto -	-	$\frac{1}{2}$		Pegging -	-	4		Calf, upper, brown, lbs. -	14
Tape :				Handles, pegging -	-	16		Brads, size $\frac{1}{2}$ " and $\frac{3}{4}$ ", lbs. {	2 of each
Broad, pieces, 12 yards each	10			Knives -	-	3		Bristles, ozs. -	4
Middling -	-	10		Rub stones -	-	2		Hemp, balls -	40
Twine, sail, lbs. -	-	10		Pump irons -	-	1		Flax, ditto -	6
Thimbles, men's -	-	10		Rasps -	-	1		Pegs, lbs. -	2
Shoemakers' lasts, straight, pairs :				Nippers -	-	1		Glass paper, sheets -	12
No. 6 size -	-	1		Irons :				Wax, balls -	25
" 7 " -	-	1		Forepart -	-	1		Old blankets for fomenta-	
" 8 " -	-	1		Glazing -	-	1		tions -	100
" 9 " -	-	1		Lasting tacks, gross -	-	1		Old linen sheets for me-	
" 10 " -	-	1		Hammers, No. -	-	1		dical purposes -	80
" 11 " -	-	1		Aprons, ditto -	-	1			

About 80 volumes, general literature, were supplied to each vessel, to form a library, in addition to 250 Bibles and 250 Prayer Books and a Pocket Communion Service.

A supply of stationery and printed forms.

Enclosure 2 in No. 583.

LIST of MEDICAL COMFORTS placed on board the ship "Golden Fleece," for the use of the Sick of the Abyssinian Expedition.

Article.	Quantity.	Article.	Quantity.
Port wine -	250 dozen.	Gelatine -	25 lbs.
Sherry -	100 "	Isinglass -	25 "
Champagne -	10 " pints.	Jelly, calves' foot -	20 dozen pints.
Gin, "old Tom" -	5 "	Soap, soft -	5 cwt.
Whiskey -	5 "	Soda, washing -	2 "
Brandy -	25 "	Pearl ash -	2 "
Stout -	500 " imperial pints.	Soap, marine -	10 "
Ale -	500 " "	Pearl barley -	1,120 lbs.
Milk, condensed -	3,000 1 lb. tins.	Preserved fowls -	500 "
Butter -	240 lbs.	" potatoes -	10 cwt.
Coffee, roasted -	120 "	Soda water -	100 dozen.
Tapioca -	50 "	Carbolic acid -	200 pints.
Sugar, crushed -	2,000 "	Condy's fluid -	200 "
Salt, table -	720 "	Lime, slacked -	6 cwt.
Baking powder, Borthwick's	50 patent boxes, 1s. size.	Blacking -	36 tins.
		Claret -	12 dozen.
		Crystallized carbolic acid	50 lbs.

LIST of ARTICLES placed on board by the Victualling Department of the Admiralty on the requisition of the War Department.

Article.	Quantity.	Article.	Quantity.
Desiccated milk -	100 gallons.	Pepper, ground -	50 lbs.
Preserved mutton -	2,000 lbs.	Sago -	1 cwt.
" beef -	2,000 "	Vinegar -	18 gallons.
Essence of beef -	5,000 $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. tins.	Soap, yellow -	1 ton.
" mutton -	4,000 " "	Candles, sperm -	100 lbs.
Soup and bouilli -	1,000 lbs.	Oatmeal -	1 cwt.
Tea -	6 half chests.	Malt -	112 lbs.
Rice -	10 cwt.	Hops -	14 "
Arrowroot -	10 "	Flour, best quality -	5 tons.
Mustard -	1 "	Lime juice -	200 gallons.

The stores placed on board the "Queen of the South" and the "Mauritius" correspond in every particular with those placed on board the "Golden Fleece."

Enclosure 3 in No. 583.

NOMINAL LIST of Officers (Medical and Purveying) and Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Army Hospital Corps on board the hospital ship "Mauritius."

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Officers.

1 Surgeon. 1 Assistant Surgeon.
G. P. M. Woodward, Staff Surgeon. E. J. Fairland, Staff Assistant Surgeon.

Army Hospital Corps (Medical Branch).

1 Colour Sergeant.	1 Lance Sergeant.	14 Privates.
Colour Sergeant Henry Lee.	Private H. Dudman.	Private F. Ainsworth.
Lance Sergeant R. Mahoney.	" J. Flemming.	" W. Deniston.
Second Corporal S. Maltby.	" J. Badrick.	" G. Lewis.
Private R. Clinton.	" J. Mills.	" G. Edwards.
" T. Morgan.	" W. Pigott.	" D. Falkard.
" S. Brooke.		

PURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Officer.

1 Assistant Purveyor, with the rank of Subaltern.

J. D. Thwaites, Assistant Purveyor.

Army Hospital Corps (Purveyor's Branch).

1 Sergeant-Major.	1 Sergeant.	1 Lance Sergeant.	2 Second Corporals.
		7 Privates.	
Sergeant-Major James Kirk.	Second Corporal William Rae-	Private A. Plane.	
Sergeant Samuel Squirrell.	burn.	" J. H. Firman.	
Lance Sergeant William Prosser.	Private P. Edge.	" G. Westcott.	
Second Corporal Mark Douch.	" R. Fenders.	" J. Webster.	
	" T. Ponting.		

NOMINAL LIST of Officers (Medical and Purveying) and Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Army Hospital Corps on board the hospital ship "Queen of the South."

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Officers.

1 Surgeon. 1 Assistant Surgeon.
J. S. Chartres, Staff Surgeon. W. J. Wheeler, Staff Assistant Surgeon.

Army Hospital Corps (Medical Branch).

1 Colour Sergeant.	1 Sergeant.	1 Second Corporal.	13 Privates.
Colour Sergeant Josephs, William.	Private Daley, Peter.	Private Vyke, William.	
Sergeant Chadwick, W. H.	" Foster, William.	" Scott, James.	
Second Corporal Jarvis, John.	" Fitzpatrick, James.	" Tyrrell, Thomas.	
Private Adams, John.	" Harris, Charles.	" Walker, David.	
" Bradford, Thomas.	" Keane, Thomas.	" Wade, William.	
	" Looby, John.		

PURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Officers.

1 Assistant Purveyor, with the rank of Subaltern.

M. J. S. Woollett, Assistant Purveyor.

Army Hospital Corps (Purveyor's Branch).

1 Colour Sergeant.	1 Sergeant.	2 Lance Sergeants.	8 Privates.
Colour Sergeant Burrows, James.	Private Fitzgerald, John.	Private Ryan, Joseph.	
Sergeant Sheffield, Robert.	" Ford, Michael.	" Young, Alexander.	
Lance Sergeant Main, Joseph.	" Harris, John.	" Turner, A.	
" " Cave, Luke.	" Kimber, James.	" Britten, John.	

NOMINAL LIST of Officers (Medical and Purveying), and Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Army Hospital Corps on board the hospital ship "Golden Fleece."

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Officers.

1 Surgeon.
S. Rock, Staff Surgeon.

1 Assistant Surgeon.
R. Murphy, Staff Assistant Surgeon.

Army Hospital Corps, (Medical Branch).

1 Colour Sergeant.	1 Sergeant.	1 Second Corporal.	15 Privates.
Colour Sergeant Williams, James.	Private Wright, John.	Private Dunaher, David.	
Sergeant M'Intyre, David.	„ Wareham, Charles.	„ Walters, Thomas.	
Second Corporal Moran, Michael.	„ Collins, J.	„ Ship, Henry.	
Private Adams, James.	„ Babey, James.	„ Gallop, George.	
„ Gibney, James.	„ M'Manus, Charles.	„ Morris, James.	
„ Knight, Charles.	„ Brillimore, James.	„ Blake, George.	

PURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Officer.

1 Assistant Purveyor, with the rank of Subaltern.

J. S. Young, Assistant Purveyor.

Army Hospital Corps (Purveyor's Branch).

1 Sergeant-Major.	1 Sergeant.	3 Lance Sergeants.	7 Privates.
Sergeant-Major Aldred, William.	Lance Sergeant Way, George.	Private Mouncey, Edward.	
Sergeant Simms, J.	Private Williams, John.	" Burridge, Thomas.	
Lance Sergeant Mitchel, John.	" Callaghan, Michael.	" Brown, Robert.	
" " Marvesley, James.	" Prescott, J.	" Gillmore, Lewis.	

Enclosure 4 in No. 583.

The Purveyor-in-Chief to the Assistant Purveyor.

Sir,

War Office, 26th September 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that you have been appointed to take charge of the purveying duties of the hospital ships now being fitted out for service in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition, and to forward, for your information and guidance, lists of hospital equipment, furniture, bedding and clothing, provisions, medical comforts, &c. ordered to be placed on board for the use of the sick.

A staff of Army Hospital Corps, belonging to both branches of the corps (including a cook, butcher, baker, and tailor), has been detailed for duty on board the vessel, in order that you may be enabled to diet the European sick in accordance with the ordinary scale in use in military hospitals at home and abroad.

Every exertion should be made by you to provide fresh bread daily for the patients; to enable you to do so, all the necessary materials for making bread have been put on board.

You will have to apply, through the Senior Surgeon, to the military authorities at the port where the vessel may be stationed for the necessary daily supply of fresh meat for hospital use, or for authority to purchase, as well as for funds to enable you to make such purchases, to pay the Army Hospital Corps, and to meet other incidental expenses necessarily incurred in the service of the hospital.

In all matters connected with the equipment of the hospital or the dietary of the sick, you will act under the directions of the Senior Surgeon, who will furnish you with written vouchers for issues made by his authority to enable you to support the expenditure in your accounts.

The stores supplied by the Admiralty, and placed in charge of the Captain of the vessel for the use of the sick at the instance of the War Office, should be demanded by you as required for hospital purposes; to enable the Captain to vouch his expenditure account rendered to the Admiralty, you should furnish him with a receipt for the supplies received by you.

Unless otherwise directed by the local authorities, you will prepare the hospital accounts on the form in use in military hospitals at home.

Should further supplies of equipment, provisions, or medical comforts be required, you should forward through the Senior Surgeon a requisition for the same to the local military authorities, who will determine whether the supplies are to be provided locally or demanded from England.

I have, &c.,

J. SCOTT ROBERTSON,
Purveyor-in-Chief.

No. 584.

The Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, September 23, 1867.

No. 116.

I have the honour to state, with reference to Mr. Under Secretary Murray's despatch of the 29th of August, that Colonel Clark Kennedy arrived here with his staff on the 12th instant, and immediately placed himself in communication with this Agency and Consulate-General.

Before that officer's arrival I had already put matters in training with a view to secure, as far as this Government is concerned, all the objects of his mission; and I have since assisted him in obtaining suitable accommodation for the whole of his staff, for the mules, baggage, and commissariat stores, as well as in making all the arrangements necessary for the transport of the mules to Suez. The Viceroy has very liberally given over to our use some admirably appointed barracks adjoining the Tabarry Palace and in the immediate vicinity of the railway station and the wharf or jetty of the port on which the mules will be landed. At Suez, where house, stable, or store accommodation is at all times very limited, and at the present time not to be met with, the local Governor has, by His Highness's orders, ceded to us a convenient camping ground for the mules and a spacious walled inclosure for the commissariat stores. No custom-house duty will be levied upon either the mules or baggage and other equipments, and the railway charge is very liberally reduced from the ordinary fare of 2*l.* per head to 160 current piastres, or about 18.

In fact every facility which it was possible for this Government to accord, under the circumstances, has been cheerfully given.

I have, &c.,
THOS. F. READE.

No. 585.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 3, 1867.

No. 97.

No. 584.

With reference to your letter of the 27th of August last, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from the British Acting Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, reporting the arrival in that country of Colonel Clark Kennedy with his Staff, and the facilities granted by the Egyptian Government for the transit through Egypt of mules for the use of the projected expedition to Abyssinia; and I am to request that in laying the enclosed paper before Secretary Sir J. Pakington, you will inform him that Lord Stanley purposes instructing Mr. Reade to express to the Egyptian Government the cordial thanks of that of Her Majesty for granting the facilities in question.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 586.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

No. 503.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of the propositions of the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham, in reference to the provision of Norton's American tube wells for the Abyssinian expedition, excepting that he considers that it will be sufficient to supply the requisite apparatus for sinking fifty wells.

2. I am, accordingly, desired to request that Colonel Simmons may be informed that one set of the boring apparatus will be sent to Chatham immediately, with a few lengths of pipe, and that he may be requested to select a few men of the Engineers to be forthwith instructed in the work.

3. The Director-General of Stores of this Office will also be desired to obtain the necessary apparatus for sinking fifty of the wells.

4. Lieutenant A. Le Messurier, of the Royal (Bombay) Engineers, will be appointed to the charge of the working party, and be directed to proceed to Chatham without delay.

5. The enclosure to your letter is herewith returned.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 587.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant A. LE MESSURIER, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that it is intended to send out a small party of the Royal Engineers, with fifty of Norton's American tube wells, for the purposes of the Abyssinian expedition; and I am desired to inquire whether you are willing to undertake the charge of the party, and, if so, to request that you will hold yourself in readiness to proceed to Chatham, with the view of making yourself acquainted with the operation of the pumps.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 588.

The Financial Secretary, India Office, to the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

Gentlemen,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having requested to be furnished with specimens of the "Maria Theresa" dollars, which are being transmitted to Egypt, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will give directions for the transmission to this Office of three of those dollars, for the use of their Lordships.

I am, &c.,

T. L. SECCOMBE,
Financial Secretary.

No. 589.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 4th October 1867.

With reference to the correspondence forwarded to this Office in Major-General Pears's letter of the 26th ultimo, and more especially to paragraph 7 of the Despatch from the Government of Bombay, dated Poona, 24th August 1867, relating to the point from which the proposed expedition into Abyssinia would start, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will submit to the Secretary of State for India in Council the following observations, which Sir John Pakington has received from Lieutenant-Colonel Cooke, attached to the Topographical Department, on the subject, accompanied by the chart and the printed paper referred to.

The first starting point proposed for the expedition is Hawakil Bay. This route, as far as is known, has never been followed by any European who has left an account of his travels. No information about it can, therefore, be given.

The next starting point proposed is Ansley Bay, and it is stated that the first station from there will be Mara, 70 miles distant on the highlands. It will be seen by referring to the third paragraph from the bottom, page 115, Appendix to "Routes in Abyssinia," and to the map, page 113, that from Ansley Bay the highlands can be reached at Dogonta (Tekunda), a distance of 40 miles, by a road which Krapf says could be made accessible for camels, and where there is probably sufficient water from the sources of the river Hoddas. There is also water half way between Hamhammo and Shumfait. The feasibility of this route will probably be investigated by the reconnoitring party.

As regards Sir H. Durand's observations about the route of the Portuguese Expedition in 1541, the same question has been raised in England, and the accompanying printed extracts, which form part of the second Appendix, have accordingly been made, which leave no doubt that their starting point was in Massowah Bay.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 590.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

No. 551.

Nos. 385 and 434.

Nos. 530 and 493.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, relating to the wish of the Netherlands Government that an Officer of the Netherlands Army should be allowed to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia; and, with reference to the last paragraph stating that no reply has been received to two letters of the 17th and 20th ultimo, respecting similar applications from Italian Officers, I have to acquaint you that they were answered by me on the 28th and 25th of September, respectively.

2. The former of these two letters from the Foreign Office gave cover to a letter from the Italian Minister at this Court, expressing the wish of his Government that two Officers of the Italian Army might be allowed to join the Staff of Sir Robert Napier; and you were informed, in reply, that, on learning the names of the Officers, they should be communicated to Sir Robert Napier, but that it was very desirable that the Officers should understand that their personal services would probably not be required, and that, owing to the character of the country in which the force might be engaged, their equipment should be as light as possible.

3. I am directed to state that, on learning the name of the Officer of the Netherlands Army selected by his Government, Sir Stafford Northcote will communicate it to Sir Robert Napier, who, he has no doubt, will show him every attention in his power; but I am to request that a communication may be made to the Netherlands Chargé d'Affaires, in this case, similar to that which was desired in reference to the wish of the Italian Government, with regard to the position in which the Officer will be placed and the character of the country, &c.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 591.

Captain CECIL JOHNSON to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. (Received October 4th, 1867.)

My Lord,

Florence, 30th September 1867.

Being informed that some question exists as to the best kind of baggage animal and pack-saddle for the Abyssinian expedition, and having gained much experience on those subjects during my long service as the Queen's messenger, when travelling on horseback with despatches in the East, I venture to submit to your Lordship the accompanying Memorandum, which, if it be deemed worthy of notice, I shall be ready at any time to lay, in all its details, before the War Department, at your command.

I have, &c.,
CECIL JOHNSON.

Enclosure in No. 591.

Memorandum by Captain JOHNSON.

Florence, 30th September 1867.

In all parts of Servia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, and in Turkey, where camels cannot safely be employed on account of the innumerable stumps of small trees in the tracks through the forests, which would lame them, every kind of merchandise is transported on the backs of ponies.

These caravans are managed by one man, "kuragee," to about every ten ponies.

The weight carried by each pony is usually one hundred okes, equal to about two hundred and fifty English pounds. Travelling by post (frequently at a gallop) the weight is limited to seventy okes.

The pack-saddles are made of bars of ash, bent when green to a proper shape by fire. They are very strong. I never knew one break, though I have frequently seen the ponies killed on the spot by a fall at a gallop.

The same pack-saddles are used when travelling at speed with post-horses, or at a walk with "kuragee" horses.

The price of such a pony, sound, in good condition, from six to eight years old, and accustomed to carry a pack, used to be from ten to twelve pounds sterling.

The newly opened railway from Varna to Roustchouk now carries much of the merchandise which was formerly transported by "kuragees"; therefore these ponies have probably fallen in price, which might safely be averaged at eleven pounds.

A pack-saddle, with its pad complete, could hardly cost more than two pounds, therefore the baggage animal equipped ready for a campaign should not cost more than thirteen pounds sterling.

These pack-saddles are made to fit over the lower part of the pony's neck, above the withers, and extend backwards to the hips. The girths are made of hemp, and the load is fastened to the pack-saddle with ropes. There is not a strap, buckle, or particle of leather about them.

The pack-saddle is very light; it fits on to a pad which is separate from the saddle; the pressure is equally divided along the animal's back, and the pad is never taken off after work until the animal's back is cold. The pony is then cleaned, the pad is replaced on its back, and remains there always. The result is, that sore backs to either post or "kuragee" horses are unknown in Turkey.

By a simple plan of operation, which I can easily explain, any person acquainted with the languages, geography, and customs of the countries, could obtain selected animals fit for immediate work, which could be driven to Constantinople with their pack-saddles on their backs (each animal carrying its own forage for the journey and voyage), embarked there, and landed at Alexandria, at the rate of two hundred a week, as soon as the system of supply has been properly established.

I have written this Memorandum on the supposition that the transport animals already purchased or ordered would be required to accompany the army on its march.

It is obviously quite impossible that an army can take the field with stores for a campaign. I assume that there would be an organized system of supply to the army kept up from the coast, which (by means of relays on the road, at such distances as the nature of the country and supply of water would suggest) should be continuous, the horses travelling by night and day, and returning with sick or wounded men.

For this purpose the "kuragees" of Bulgaria should be engaged as drivers. These people are robust in constitution, accustomed to exposure by day and night; they are honest, peaceful, brave, very submissive, obedient, and sober. I have no doubt they could be engaged for the campaign, and, if engaged, should be allowed the sole and entire management of the horses.

CECIL JOHNSON.

No. 592.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that the Superintendent of the Laboratory at Woolwich may be requested to send to the India Store Department, in Belvidere Road, 500 quarter-pound signal rockets, packed in boxes not exceeding 100 pounds in weight, for the purpose of their being added to the equipment of the field telegraph train for Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 593.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Major J. U. CHAMPAIN.

Sir,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

No. 545.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, and to acquaint you in reply that a communication has been made to the War Office, requesting a supply of 500 quarter-pound signal rockets, in accordance with the suggestion made by you.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 594.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

No. 338

With reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that he may be furnished with a complete nominal list of the Officers of the Medical and Purveying Departments who have proceeded to the East in the hospital ships connected with the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 595.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 4th, 1867.

No. 584.

I have received your despatch of the 23d ultimo, reporting the arrival in Egypt of Colonel Clark Kennedy and other officers, as well as the arrangements made by the Egyptian Government for facilitating the transit through Egypt of mules collected for the use of the projected Abyssinian expedition; and I have to instruct you to convey the cordial thanks of Her Majesty's Government to that of the Viceroy for the facilities thus afforded by them.

I am, &c.,

STANLEY.

No. 596.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. (Received October 4th.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, September 23, 1867.

No. 65.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of the note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting, in compliance with the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's letter of the 22nd August, that the Porte would instruct the Ottoman authorities in Arabia to give the utmost assistance to the officers sent to procure beasts of burden for the use of Her Majesty's army in the East.

A copy of His Highness's reply notifying the despatch of the necessary orders to the Imperial authorities of Bagdad, the Hedjaz and Yemen, is also enclosed.

I transmitted, on the 9th instant, to Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General in Egypt the two Vizirial letters addressed accordingly to the Governors of Hedjaz and Yemen, with a request that he would forward the same, by whatever he might deem the best channel, to their destination.

Several officers have already arrived here and in other parts of Turkey situated on the Mediterranean Sea, for the above purpose. They require only 1,500 mules in the Levant ports, but the prices asked are so exorbitant that they have as yet renounced making any purchases. I think it right to inform your Lordship that the prices asked here are double those which are being paid at Bagdad. Her Majesty's Consul-General

there reports on the 18th September that 335 mules and "yabous" (pack-horses) have been already purchased at an average price of 11*l.* sterling, and that 3,000 are probably obtainable (I believe he means in excess of the number required by the Indian Government), "imported mainly, if not entirely, from Persia by end of December. The Persian authorities now aiding us."

Even at the same cost price, the transport of these animals from Bussorah to Massowah in one voyage must be far less costly than the two sea voyages and the railway through Egypt necessary to convey them from Constantinople to Massowah.

The only real question, therefore, would seem to be whether a sufficient supply can be found at a short notice in Turkish Arabia, in the Persian Gulf, and on the Red Sea. My own opinion is that it can, and that purchases made there can be delivered at Massowah at half the cost of those shipped from hence.

I have, &c.,
H. P. T. BARRON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 596.

Mr. BARRON to FUAD PASHA.

Sir,

Constantinople, September 1st, 1867.

The Government of Bombay have sent Officers to Arabia, with a view to procure beasts of burden for the use of Her Majesty's army in the East.

I have now the honour, in obedience to orders from Her Majesty's Government, to request your Highness that the Sublime Porte will instruct the Ottoman authorities in Arabia to give their utmost assistance to the Officers in question.

I may add, that it is of great importance that this assistance should be at once rendered, as the animals are required for an expedition to Abyssinia, in order to effect the release of the prisoners detained in captivity by King Theodore.

I avail myself, &c.,
H. BARRON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 596.

FUAD PASHA to Mr. BARRON.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Sublime Porte, le 14 Septembre 1867.

En réponse à la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser, le 1 Septembre, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que la Sublime Porte s'est empressée, conformément au désir du Cabinet de St. James, de transmettre les ordres nécessaires aux autorités Impériales de Bagdad, du Hedjaz, et de Yemen, pour qu'elles aient à prêter toutes les facilités voulues aux Officiers envoyés dans ces pays par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, pour l'achat des bêtes de somme destinées au corps expéditionnaire se rendant en Abyssinie.

Agréez, &c.,
FUAD.

No. 597.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 4th, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, copies of a Despatch and of its enclosures, from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, on the subject of the purchase of animals for the Abyssinian expedition. No. 596.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

P.S. Copies of these papers have also been sent to the War Office.

* A similar letter was addressed to the War Office.

No. 598.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 4th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, upon the requisition of the Assistant Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers, instructions have been given for the issue of the articles named in the margin* for the use of a man of the Depot Companies, Royal Engineers, proceeding on the Abyssinian expedition.

* 2 pairs serge trousers.
1 Indian helmet.
1 serge frock.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 599.

The Rev. DR. KRAFF to the Political Secretary, India Office.

Kornthal, near Stuttgart,
4th October 1867.

Most honoured Sir,

As time for my departure is fast approaching, I would take the liberty most respectfully to beg Sir Stafford Northcote for a reply in regard to Mr. Haussmann's salary, the amount of which he would most submissively leave to Her Majesty's Government to fix and settle, only begging that an early reply by letter or telegraph (to Stuttgart) may be given under my address, in order that he may make himself ready for departure conjointly with me on the 14th instant.

In case His Excellency Sir Stafford Northcote condescends to comply with Mr. Haussmann's request, will you kindly tell me or Mr. Haussmann to whom his draft is to be directed.

With the highest esteem, I am, &c.,
L. KRAFF.

P.S.—To my telegraphic despatch of yesterday, addressed to you on the above subject, no reply has reached me till now.

L. K.

No. 600.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to Dr. KRAFF, October 4th, 1867.

Mr. Haussmann's salary will be 500*l*. He may draw on this Office for half at once.

No. 601.

The Under Secretary of State for India to Dr. KRAFF.

Sir,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

Nos. 478 and 511.

With reference to your letters of the 24th and 27th ultimo, I am directed to inform you that Sir Stafford Northcote is willing to allow Mr. Haussmann the sum named by him, viz., 500*l*., as remuneration for his services during the Abyssinian expedition. Of this amount Mr. Haussmann may draw on this Office for one half prior to his departure, and the remainder will be paid to him on the conclusion of the expedition; a free passage and rations will also be provided.

No. 478.

I am to add, that you are at liberty to engage the services of two Abyssinians at a salary of 3*l*. each per mensem, as suggested in your letter of the 24th ultimo.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 602.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 4.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, September 23, 1867.

No. 61.
No. 303.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd August, and to my letter of the 3rd instant, on the subject of telegraphic communication being allowed to

be established between Suez and Bombay by the Syrian coast line, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of my application on the subject to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of his Highness's answer.

From the latter your Lordship will perceive that the Porte assents to the request of Her Majesty's Government, and that measures will be taken to insure the prompt transmission of messages by Syria and Bagdad. At the same time Fuad Pasha apprizes me that the administration cannot guarantee a rapid and perfectly regular communication by those lines.

I have, &c.,
H. P. T. BARRON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 602.

Mr. BARRON to FUAD PASHA.

Sir, Constantinople, September 1st, 1867.

With reference to my note of this date, relative to the expedition which Her Majesty's Government are about to send to Abyssinia, I have the honour to state to Your Highness that it would be of great importance that they should be able to establish a rapid communication between Suez and Bombay. They have been informed that this may be effected, if permission be given by the Ottoman Government to allow telegraphic messages to pass along the Syrian coast line *via* Bagdad.

In obedience to Lord Stanley's instructions, I have now the honour to request, through Your Highness, that the Sublime Porte will grant this permission.

I avail, &c.,
H. P. T. BARRON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 602.

His Highness FUAD PASHA to Mr. BARRON.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, Constantinople, le 14 Septembre 1867.

En réponse à la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 1^{er} Septembre, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que la Sublime Porte adhère à ce que les dépêches, déposées par les autorités Anglaises à Suez et destinées à Bombay, traversent, conformément au désir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, les lignes Ottomanes de Syrie, pour parvenir à leur destination par la voie de Bagdad. Tout en vous assurant donc que les mesures nécessaires seront prises pour la prompte transmission de cette correspondance, je crois devoir vous informer que l'administration Impériale des Télégraphes ne saurait garantir une communication rapide et tout à fait régulière par ces lignes, attendu qu'elles présentent parfois des irrégularités dues aux intempéries du climat, irrégularités auxquelles elle cherche actuellement à remédier autant que possible, mais qui ne pourraient pas disparaître entièrement avant quelque temps.

En vous priant, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de vouloir bien porter ce qui précède à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique,

Je saisis, &c.,
FUAD.

No. 603.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 4th, 1867.

With reference to Mr. Hammond's letter of the 11th ultimo, I am directed by No. 304. Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, the accompanying copies of a Despatch and its enclosures from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, on the subject of the use of the Syrian coast for the transmission of telegraphic messages from the British Government to Bombay.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 604.

The Consul at Brindisi to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 4.)

My Lord,

Brindisi, September 24, 1867.

See No. 461. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegraphic message of the 23rd instant, authorizing me to give the guarantee necessary to enable the Commissary-General to negotiate bills on Her Majesty's Treasury.

I have, &c.,

HENRY GRANT.

No. 605.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Paris to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 4.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 3, 1867.

I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Colonel Claremont, containing information respecting Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

JULIAN FANE.

Enclosure in No. 605.

Colonel CLAREMONT to Mr. FANE.

Sir,

Paris, October 3d, 1867.

In the year 1847, a work on Abyssinia was published by Messrs. Féret and Galinier, then Captains in the French Staff Corps; they had remained two years in the country, from 1840 to 1842.

I have seen it quoted in some English newspapers, but I am afraid it is out of print; I am, however trying to get a copy of it.

M. Galinier, who is now a Colonel, happens to be well known to me, and as he is quartered in Paris, I have had a long conversation with him on the subject of his travels in a country which is now invested with so much interest.

He said that he was almost sorry that we were going to punish a people whom he had found so tractable and easy in its relations, and he expressed a fear lest the only result of the expedition should be a numerous accession of slaves for the Egyptians.

What strikes him as the greatest difficulty we shall have to contend with is, the object or end we shall assign to the war.

He does not seem to make a doubt that an army of 10,000 men is amply sufficient to conquer the country; but he thinks the inhabitants will invariably retire before us, so that there will be no tangible results.

There is no regular army to contend with, and when he was there the warriors were only armed with matchlocks. Cavalry they had none worthy of the name, only a few of the chiefs being mounted on horses, and the rest on mules.

Massowah, he quite agrees, is the only point whence the table land can be reached, it is about three or four days' rugged march to get to it, and the ascent is very laborious; a few determined men could stop an army, but that part of the country is thinly inhabited by the Chohos, who are Mussulmen, and who do not belong to Abyssinia proper.

The table land, M. Galinier says, is by no means unhealthy, on the condition that one never goes down to encamp in the valleys which run through it, and where one would be sure to catch fever and dysentery.

I particularly asked about wood and water, which, he says, they found everywhere. Beef and mutton also appear to be abundant; the natives eat it raw. There is no corn, but plenty of barley, from which they make beer. They have a sort of seed, called "tef," with which they make unleavened cakes. They do not seem, however, to raise much more than is necessary for their own wants, and the question is, whether this stock would not very soon be exhausted by an army.

Game is said to be plentiful, principally hares, which, however, the natives never touch, and there must be some reason for it, for both M. Galinier and his companion, having one day eaten some, were both ill in consequence.

Roads there are none, and a wheel carriage was never seen; the little traffic there is, is all carried on with *bât* mules, of which a few are found about Massowah, but plenty about Gondar.

The table land of the Tigré is not, it appears, very difficult to march through, until one gets to the Takazel, an affluent of the Nile; this runs through a deep ravine, the sides of which are about 500 yards in height and quite precipitous. One then enters the Samen, which leads to Gondar, and this, M. Galinier says, will offer as many obstacles to the advance of an army as a march over the Alps or the Pyrenees.

The above, in a few words, is the sum of the information I gathered, but I strongly recommend the perusal of the book if it can be had, for, although it is not at all written in a military point of view, yet it affords many useful hints.

I have, &c.,
E. S. CLAREMONT

No. 606.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Paris to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 4.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 3, 1867.

I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Despatch from Colonel Claremont forwarding Messrs. Féret and Galinier's work on Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
JULIAN FANE.

Enclosure in No. 606.

Colonel CLAREMONT to Mr. FANE.

Sir,

Paris, October 3d, 1867.

With reference to my previous Despatch of this day's date, I beg to transmit herewith Messrs. Féret and Galinier's work on Abyssinia, which has just been sent me. There are three volumes and an atlas.

I have, &c.,
E. S. CLAREMONT, Colonel.

No. 607.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 4th, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, copies of two Despatches which have been addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Paris by Colonel Claremont, respecting Messrs. Féret and Galinier's book on Abyssinia, and enclosing a copy of that work.

I am to request that the book may ultimately be returned to this Office.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 608.

The Swedish Chargé d'Affaires in London to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 4, 1867.)

My Lord,

Londres, 3 Octobre 1867.

Un jeune savant Suédois, M. le Docteur de Paykull, Professeur Agrégé de Minéralogie et de Géologie à l'Université d'Upsal, et qui a publié dernièrement une relation de ses explications scientifiques de l'île d'Islande, laquelle a été favorablement accueillie par les hommes compétens en ces matières, désirerait vivement qu'il lui fût permis, dans l'intérêt de la science, de suivre l'expédition projetée par le Gouvernement Britannique en Abyssinie.

Il a demandé et obtenu pour ce but une allocation du Gouvernement du Roi, qui verrait avec plaisir que son projet pût se réaliser, et qui s'en promet des résultats avantageux ; et je viens de recevoir l'ordre de m'adresser à Votre Excellence, pour demander si le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique voudrait bien donner la permission requise, et accorder à ce savant les facilités qui pourraient lui devenir nécessaires et utiles. M. le Comte Manderström, ayant vu dans les journaux que des savants Français viennent de recevoir une pareille autorisation, se flatte que la demande que j'ai reçu l'ordre de faire, trouvera un accueil non moins favorable, et il

espère que, si tel était le cas, M. de Paykull pourrait obtenir passage sur un des bâtimens de la Marine Royale Britannique, pour se rendre sur les lieux, ou au moins à Alexandrie. Si la permission demandée est accordée, j'ose vous prier, my Lord, de me faire savoir, aussitôt que possible, quand M. de Paykull devrait être rendu à Londres, afin de pouvoir faire préalablement ses préparatifs d'un voyage, qui sans doute exige des dispositions toutes spéciales en accord avec le climat et les particularités du pays qu'il désirerait visiter. Il serait indispensable qu'il puisse passer à Londres au moins une quinzaine de jours avant de se mettre en route.

En sollicitant l'intervention bienveillante de Votre Excellence afin d'obtenir l'assentiment et le concours du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique pour cette entreprise, à laquelle le Gouvernement du Roi porte un intérêt spécial, je profite de l'occasion pour vous renouveler, my Lord, les assurances, etc.,

L. BECKFRIIS.

No. 609.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 4th October 1867.

No. 608.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a letter from the Swedish Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, requesting that a young Swedish Professor of Mineralogy and Geology may be allowed to accompany the British expedition to Abyssinia, and that, if this proposal can be entertained, a passage may be given to him on board one of Her Majesty's vessels, and that he may receive due notice of the date upon which he ought to arrive in London.

I am to request that you will take Sir Stafford Northcote's opinion as to the answer which should be returned to this application.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 610.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 4th October 1867.

The transports engaged in this country for the Abyssinian expedition having been distinguished by a number painted on their sides in accordance with Article 220 of the Regulations for Her Majesty's Naval Transport Service, I beg to suggest, for the approval of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that each vessel engaged in India on a time charter as a "transport" should likewise bear a separate number, and that, to avoid confusion in regard to transports chartered in England, or in the Mediterranean, this series of numbers should commence with 50.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MENDS.

No. 611.

The Deputy Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 4th October 1867.

No. 557.

In reply to your letter of the 2d instant, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to request to be informed whether it is intended that one sergeant and nine rank and file of the Royal Engineers should proceed to Egypt to accompany the Abyssinian expedition as photographers, or one sergeant and six rank and file, the number specified in your letter to the Military Secretary, dated 18th ultimo.

I have, &c.,
E. R. WETHERALL,
Deputy Quartermaster-General.

No. 612.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

War Office, October 4, 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Stanley, that Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, C.B., is about to proceed to Marseilles for the purpose of superintending the fitting up of certain ships which have been hired at that port for the conveyance of mules from Spain to Alexandria for the Abyssinian expedition; and I am to request that you will move Lord Stanley to favour Sir John Pakington with a letter of recommendation for this officer to Her Majesty's Consul at Marseilles with a view to every facility being afforded to Assistant Commissary-General Bailey in the execution of his duty.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 613.

The Under Secretary of State for India to Mr. DUFTON.

Sir,

India Office, 4th October 1867.

I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to inform you, with reference to previous personal communications on the subject, that he is willing to retain your services, in connexion with the Intelligence Department of the Abyssinian Expedition, upon a salary of 600*l.* per annum, it being understood that you are to place yourself under the orders of Sir R. Napier, the Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary force.

A free passage will be provided for you to the place at which Her Majesty's Government may consider it most expedient that you should join the expedition. Instructions upon this point will be communicated to you in a future letter.

In the event of the occurrence of any circumstances rendering the expedition unnecessary, you will in any case be considered entitled to half a year's salary, besides your travelling expenses.

I am, &c.,

CLINTON.

No. 614.

Mr. DUFTON to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Vine Cottage, Streatham,

5th October 1867.

I have received your letter of the 4th instant, expressing your willingness to retain my services in connexion with the Intelligence Department of the Abyssinian expedition. No. 613.

I may say that it will be my earnest and conscientious endeavour to fulfil the duties which will devolve upon me, and I trust my knowledge of the languages and geography of the country may not be found unacceptable to Sir Robert Napier.

There is one point on which I should like to receive an early communication from you, and that is, the time when I should be required to leave England.

I should also feel obliged if I could have a quarter's salary (150*l.*) in advance, as the arrangements for my journey and the support of my family during my absence will entail a certain amount of expense.

I presume all arrangements with regard to my quarters in the camp, and the necessaries of the march will be made on the spot, and that there will consequently be no necessity for my transporting with me, tent, bedding, cooking utensils, saddle and harness, &c. Perhaps you will kindly make this point clear in my instructions.

I thank you for the assurance of a half-year's salary to me in the event of the expedition closing its labours within that period.

I am, &c.,

H. DUFTON.

No. 615.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Berne to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received, October 5.)

My Lord,

Berne, October 3, 1867.

I have been, since Sunday last, in communication with Mr. Acting Consul Reynolds at Geneva, on the subject of an Abyssinian, a native of Gondar, who was reported to be at present in this country. Although not putting much faith in the first report that reached me on the subject, I at once telegraphed to Mr. Reynolds to make active inquiries as to the origin and nationality of this individual. Mr. Reynolds telegraphs to me this morning that he has "found the Abyssinian, who speaks French "and Italian well, English and German passably, and has no objection to return to his "country." He adds, that the man will come up to Berne on Monday next to see me, if I will pay his expenses. I expect full details from Mr. Reynolds by the post; but I have thought it right to report at once to your Lordship on the subject; and I venture to request your Lordship's instructions in the case of this individual turning out—upon the thorough examination to which, with the assistance of an eminent Orientalist here, I hope to be able to subject him—to be that which he represents himself to be.

I have, &c.,

HORACE RUMBOLD.

No. 616.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 5th October 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Sir Stafford Northcote, with reference to the projected expedition to Abyssinia, a Despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berne, relative to a native of that country now resident in Switzerland.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MURRAY.

No. 617.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 5th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 31st August last, and to my reply of the 5th ultimo, relative to the despatch of a party of Royal Artillery to the Red Sea in charge of the mountain train batteries and rocket equipment for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying list of the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and artificers selected for the service in question.

I have, &c.,

W. F. FORSTER.

Enclosure in No. 617.

Mountain Train Batteries and Rocket Equipments for Abyssinia.

List of Officers, &c. selected for instruction in the Royal Arsenal.

Lieutenant J. P. Nolan	-	-	-	-	-	} Woolwich.
" E. T. Chapman	-	-	-	-	-	
Sergeant J. Manners, Depôt Brigade	-	-	-	-	-	
" T. Match	"	"	-	-	-	
" J. Booth	"	"	-	-	-	
Corporal T. Warburton	"	"	-	-	-	} Warley.
Bombardier E. Fricker	"	"	-	-	-	
" W. Morrison, Depôt Brigade	-	-	-	-	-	
" W. Harrison	"	"	-	-	-	
" J. Carswell	"	"	-	-	-	
Armstrong Armourer Sergeant G. Trower, 9th Brigade	-	-	-	-	-	- Aldershot.
" " T. Duffield	"	"	-	-	-	- Clonmel.

No. 618.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 5th October 1867.

With reference to Colonel Johnson's letters of the 2d and 5th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request you will inform His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, that the Government of Bombay have been informed that two mountain batteries with rockets, intended for service in Abyssinia, will be despatched about the middle of the present month to Suez, and it is proposed that the Officers who have been appointed to the charge of these batteries should accompany them. As it appears that there is not room on board the "Serapis" for more than one battery with ammunition, Sir Stafford Northcote proposes to send one by that vessel, with one Officer and a part of the detachment, and the other battery, with the second Officer and the remainder of the detachment, by a vessel which will be freighted for the conveyance of stores, and will probably leave England about the same time.

Nos. 179 and 219.

2. The Government of Bombay, who are about to despatch a number of vessels to Suez for mules, have been requested to arrange for the conveyance of these batteries, &c., and instructions will be given to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt on the subject of their accommodation and embarkation at Suez.

3. Should His Royal Highness concur in these arrangements, I am to request that the name of the Officer proposed for each charge may be communicated to this Office, together with the strength of detachment in each case, that they may be included among the troops to be embarked on board the above two vessels.

4. The necessary authority for the embarkation of the Officers and men on board the "Serapis" will then be conveyed to the Director of Transports.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General.
Military Secretary.

No. 619.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Major J. U. CHAMPAIN, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 5th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit to you a copy of a telegram which has been this day received from Bombay, relating to the telegraph for the Abyssinian expedition, and to request your opinion respecting the answer which should be sent to the Bombay Government.

No. 571.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 620.

Extract of a Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, October 5th, 1867.

In reply to No. 537.

The letter from Lord Stanley to King Theodore, which was mentioned in my message of the 19th, contained a peremptory demand. A copy of it was sent to you by the mail of the 18th. On receiving it, Sir Robert Napier will judge what further to do. Probably no other demand will be needed.

Enclosure
No. 408.
No. 424.
No. 410.

Let us know, as soon as possible, when the first brigade will start.

No. 621.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India, October 5th, 1867.

I can obtain sufficient light rail for a temporary tramway of 30 miles, worked by horse-power, for 7,500*l.*, or 250*l.* per mile. More may be had in Calcutta. I think (4260.)

Q q

that sleepers and timbers would cost 1,000*l.* per mile; points, sidings, &c., would be extra. The Native regiments would furnish labourers. If the ground between the coast and the highland is found favourable, as reported, we may construct such a tramway ourselves; but I do not like the expense, until the features of the country are better known.

The first detachment sails to-morrow.

No. 622.

Telegram from the Governor General to the Secretary of State for India,
October 5th, 1867.

Please have one Staff Veterinary Surgeon and three Veterinary Surgeons sent out to Abyssinia, to be at Sir R. Napier's disposal. None can be spared from this country.

No. 623.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Consul at
Marseilles.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 5, 1867.

This letter will be presented to you by Mr. Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, C.B., who has been ordered by the Secretary of State for War to proceed to Marseilles for the purpose of superintending the fitting up of certain ships which have been hired at that port for the conveyance from Spain to Alexandria of mules purchased for the use of the projected expedition to Abyssinia; and I am directed by Lord Stanley to instruct you to afford to this officer all the assistance in your power in furtherance of the objects of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 624.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary
of State for War.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 5, 1867.

No. 612.

In compliance with the request made by Secretary Sir John Pakington in your letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, under flying seal, a letter of introduction to Her Majesty's Consul at Marseilles for Mr. Acting Commissary-General Bailey, C.B., who is about to proceed to Marseilles for the purpose of superintending the fitting of ships for the conveyance of mules to Egypt for the use of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 625.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs.

Sir, War Office, October 5, 1867.

See No. 484.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, forwarding a Despatch, with enclosures, which has been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Bilbao on the subject of Spanish mountain artillery.

In reply, I am to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that upon an examination of the drawings submitted by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Santander, it appears that in respect to the distribution of the loads,

and the mode of carrying them, that the arrangements are, in all essential details, identical with those which have been adopted in this country for the mountain train equipment about to proceed to Abyssinia; and that this equipment has been specially designed to combine the advantages presented by the Spanish system with those which are acknowledged to appertain to the mountain train equipments of other European Powers and of Her Majesty's dependencies in India.

I am to request you will move Lord Stanley to convey to Mr. March the thanks of Sir John Pakington for his communication, which, with its accompanying documents, are herewith returned, as requested.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 626.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Medical Officers of the Bombay Army,
at home on furlough.

Sir, India Office, 5th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will hold yourself in readiness to return to duty without delay, in the event of your services being required in consequence of the Abyssinian expedition.

2. Should there be any circumstances of a special character which render it unadvisable that you should be appointed to this service, you are requested to state them in writing.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 627.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Medical Officers of the Bombay Army,
at home on sick leave.

Sir, India Office, 7th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will forthwith appear before the Medical Board (which sits in Cannon Row, on Thursdays at one o'clock), with a view to your returning to duty, or proceeding to join the Abyssinian expedition, if your health will admit of your doing so, and if your services should be required.

Should there be any circumstances of a special character which render it unadvisable that you should be appointed to this service, you are requested to state them in writing.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 628.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, 7th October 1867.

Commodore Heath having reported to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that he has offered to the Bombay Government to form a Rocket Brigade, consisting of 100 seamen, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, that they propose to authorize the Commodore to form this brigade for the Abyssinian expedition, if the Indian Government desire it.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 629.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 7th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that orders have been given for the issue of the serge clothing, &c., as per margin,* for the use of a detachment of the 2d Division, Depot Brigade, Royal Artillery, ordered to proceed on service in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

* Serge frocks, Sergeants' -	No.	5
" rank and file -	"	5
Serge trousers -	pairs	20
Helmets, Indian pattern -	No.	10

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 630.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 7th October 1867.

Referring to the letter from this Office of the 13th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, of the issue of four additional puggarees for a detachment of the Military Train which embarked in the transports "Bolivar" and "Venetia," for service in the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 631.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant ST. JOHN, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 7th October 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 2d instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that, in the list of photographers selected for service in Abyssinia, the name of No. 4,389, Sapper H. M'Donogh, 36th Company, has been substituted for that of Sapper W. Robertson.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 632.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, Pall Mall, 7th October 1867.

In reference to your letter dated 4th instant, I am instructed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that 500 quarter-pound signal rockets have been ordered to be sent to the India Store Department from Woolwich.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 633.

Major CHAMPAIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

5, John Street, Adelphi, 7th October 1867.

With reference to the letter from Major-General Pears, enclosing a telegram from the Governor of Bombay, I have the honour to point out that a copy of my suggestions (dated 3d September) for the equipment of the Abyssinian field telegraph will very soon reach India, and will, I think, clearly explain what steps should be taken in Bombay to complete the sanctioned preparations.

As, however, a telegram asking for tents and bamboo poles has been despatched to the East, I would venture to recommend that another message, somewhat as follows, should now be sent in answer to the question dated the 3d instant.

" Besides poles and tents, one Engineer subaltern and twelve European signallers
 * I believe that my report was sent on that date. " required from Bombay. Full report on the
 " September.* With the above, all will be complete for 450 miles."

See No. 359.

I have, &c.,

JOHN U. CHAMPAIN, Major, R.E.,
 Assistant Director-in-Chief,
 Indo-European Telegraph.

No. 634.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
 October 7th, 1867.

Messrs. Goodliffe and Smart offer to obtain mules at the Cape, at a probable price of 12*l.* to 15*l.* each, provided that it does not become known that the Government require them. If you think fit, communicate direct with Messrs. Goodliffe, Smart, and Searle, at the Cape of Good Hope.

No. 635.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
 October 7th, 1867.

As the European troops of the Abyssinian force will be armed with Snider rifles, and the Native troops with smooth-bore arms, I presume that your Indent, No. 6, of 24th August, for Enfield rifle ammunition, need not be complied with.

No. 636.

The Vice-Consul at Tunis to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
 (Received October 7.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 27, 1867.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that on the 21st instant I received a telegraphic despatch from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for War, wishing to be informed what number of mules could be delivered in six or seven weeks, and at what prices; to which I forwarded a reply under the same day's date.

I beg leave, most respectfully, to annex herewith a copy of my despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War, under the 24th of this month, confirming my telegraphic reply of the 21st, and informing him of the steps I had taken respecting the purchase of mules required for the Abyssinian expedition, pursuant to your Lordship's instructions of the 2nd of September; and that owing to the notice I had given thereon No. 168. to mule-holders and vendors, a considerable number of animals have already been collected, and are awaiting the officers who are to effect purchases.

I have, &c.

F. H. S. WERRY.

Enclosure in No. 636.

Vice-Consul Werry to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Tunis, September 24, 1867.

I have had the honour to receive on the 21st instant, your telegraphic despatch of the previous day's date, respecting mules required for the Abyssinian expedition, and on the same day I forwarded to you the following reply:—

" Urgent.—Received telegram. After our notice persons have collected mules; I believe that in six or seven weeks about 125 mules may be delivered at a price varying from 20*l.* to 40*l.* sterling."

On receipt of Lord Stanley's instructions of the 2nd instant on the foregoing subject, as the No. 168. exportation of both mules and horses have of late years been prohibited, owing to the falling off of the breed and difficulty of procuring animals required for the service of the country, I applied immediately to His Highness the Bey for a permit to export mules; and His Highness, out of deference and respect for Her Majesty's Government, granted a permission for 100 mules, with a promise to extend the same to a further quantity, should the exigencies of the country permit of it.

I have likewise given public notice, both here and through our Consular Agents, to all mule-holders and vendors throughout the regency, to hold their animals in readiness for officers who are to arrive to make purchases, if found of the description specified; and from what I understand, a great many mules have already been collected by private parties.

I deem it my duty, at the same time, to inform you that owing to the cessation of cholera in this country, the Tunis Board of Health has imposed fourteen days' quarantine on all arrivals from infected places, and seven days on all arrivals from places, although with clean bills of health, in communication with infected ports, who do not subject those arrivals to the same quarantine fixed by the Tunisian Board of Health.

I have, &c.

F. H. S. WERRY.

No. 637.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

War Office, October 7, 1867.

No. 508.

Referring to a letter addressed by you to the India Office on the 27th ultimo, containing an offer from a resident of Bastia to supply from 300 to 400 mules at the price of 300 or 400 francs each, I am directed by Sir John Pakington to state, for Lord Stanley's information, that a sufficient number of mules has been purchased for the present, but that if any further number should be required the offer shall not be lost sight of.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 638.

The Belgian Counsellor to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Légation de Belgique, 50, Green Street, Grosvenor Square,

My Lord,

le 7 Octobre 1867.

Mon Gouvernement verrait avec plaisir que des officiers intelligents et instruits de l'armée Belge puissent être autorisés à faire partie de l'expédition Anglaise en Abyssinie.

Je viens en conséquence prier votre Seigneurie d'avoir la bonté de me faire connaître si le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique serait disposé à accorder une semblable autorisation, et, dans l'affirmative, quel sera le nombre des officiers admis, quelles conditions leur seront imposées, et si ces officiers recevront aide et protection pendant la campagne.

Je saisis, &c.,

BARTHOLEYM DE FOSSELAERT.

No. 639.

Telegram from the Acting Consul-General in Egypt to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Cairo, October 7, 1867, 5.45 P.M.

Viceroy offers to send Envoy to Abyssinia and counsel King Theodore to release captives. He wishes, however, to know if, on liberation of captives, hostilities would cease.

No. 640.

Telegram from Colonel Blane, St. Petersburg, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards, 7th October 1867.

General Petapoff telegraphs that 1,500 regimental horses may be purchased immediately, and 1,500 three-year olds, at a price not exceeding 11*l.*; delivery at Koaloff 14*s.* more; and will make further inquiries as to transport to Alexandria. I imagine price named refers only to three-year olds. Cart horses probably about 7*l.*

No. 641.

The Under Secretary of State for India to Mr. DUFTON.

Sir, India Office, 7th October 1867.

I am directed by Sir S. Northcote to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of No. 614, the 5th instant, and to inform you, in reply, that a tent will be provided for you on the spot by Her Majesty's Government, but the remaining articles named by you should be provided by yourself, and a contingent bill for the amount submitted by you to the proper Officer with the force.

You should leave England as early as practicable, previously applying at this Office for the usual letter of credentials to Sir R. Napier or the Commanding Officer on the spot.

You are authorized to apply at the treasury of this Office for 150*l.*, which will be paid you on production of the present letter.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 642.

The Under Secretary of State for India to Rev. Dr. KRAPP.

Sir, India Office, October 7th, 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge your letter of the 4th instant, relative to the salary of Mr. Haussmann, while engaged on the Abyssinian expedition, and, in reply, to inform you that a telegram and letter were sent you from this Office on the 4th instant, Friday last, the day your telegram of the 3d was received. No. 599. Nos. 600 and 601.

The telegram sent to you from this Office was in the following words:—

"Haussmann's salary will be five hundred pounds; he may draw on this Office for half at once."

In availing himself of the permission thus communicated, Mr. Haussmann should, I am to add, draw on

"The Secretary of State for India, Westminster, London."

I am, &c.
CLINTON.

No. 643.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 7th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Foreign Office on the subject of the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition; and I am to suggest, for Sir Stafford Northcote's consideration, whether, under the circumstances stated by Mr. Barron in his Despatch of 23d ultimo (copy of which appears to have been sent to the India Office), the purchases of mules now proceeding in the Levant had not better be restricted as far as practicable. No. 596.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 644.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 7th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a telegram has been received from the Government of Bombay, requesting that one Staff Veterinary Surgeon and three Veterinary Surgeons may be sent to Abyssinia, to be at Sir Robert Napier's disposal. No. 622.

2. On learning the names of the Officers selected for this purpose, Sir Stafford Northcote will cause the necessary measures to be taken regarding their passage.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 645.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.
Financial, No. 139.

Sir,

India Office, 7th October 1867.

Nos. 78, 86,
243, 463, and
490.

I forward herewith, for your information, copy of correspondence with the Lords of the Treasury, on the subject of the expedition to Abyssinia. You will observe that it has been agreed that India shall bear the ordinary pay of the troops, now in the service of the Government of India, who may be employed in the expedition, on the express understanding that every extra charge incurred in consequence of their withdrawal from India shall be repaid by the Imperial Government. You will, therefore, take care to forward to me monthly statements of all expenses connected with the expedition, including Commissariat, Sea and Land Transport, Foreign Service Batta and Allowances, Staff Salaries, Wound Pensions, and Gratuities to European Officers or Warrant Officers of the Indian Services, and Pensions to their families; also, Wound Pensions to Native soldiers or followers, and Pensions to the families of men killed in action or dying on service, as prescribed by the Indian Regulations; compensation for loss of baggage, if captured by the enemy or lost on service; the expense of replacing Staff and other Officers withdrawn from India to serve with the expedition; and all other charges whatever, with the sole exception of the ordinary pay of the troops, which will be defrayed by India, provided it may not be necessary to supply their places by other European troops or Native levies during the time the force may be withdrawn from their usual stations.

2. You will also observe that an Officer well versed in the accounts of the Military and Naval Departments in this country will be sent to co-operate with your Officers of account, and to suggest what vouchers it may be necessary to furnish in support of the charges in the monthly statement.

No. 148.

3. You have already been informed, by my Financial Despatch of the 31st August, No. 125, that a supply of Maria Theresa dollars of the year 1780 will be consigned to Suez. An invoice, showing the cost and charges incurred on this account, will be forwarded as soon as practicable; and, after including any further charges of transport on the other side of Suez, the dollars should be issued for the expenses of the expedition, at the rate of 2s. the rupee.

No. 38.

4. I have already, in my Secret Despatch to your Government, dated the 16th August last, requested that care may be taken to avoid any unnecessary expenditure on account of the expedition; and, in accordance with the request of the Lords of the Treasury, I have again to desire that the charges may be kept down to the lowest amount consistent with the efficient conduct of the expedition.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 646.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.
Financial, No. 344.

Sir,

India Office, 7th October 1867.

No. 645.

I forward herewith, for your information, copy of a Despatch which has this day been addressed to the Government of Bombay, and of its enclosures, on the subject of the expenses connected with the expedition to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 647.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General, Horse Guards.

Sir, India Office, 8th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that the detachment of photographers selected for service in Abyssinia consists of one Sergeant and seven rank and file. No. 611.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 648.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
8th October 1867.

The Admiralty ask that each transport engaged in India on time charter may have a number painted on its side, in accordance with Article 220 of Regulations for Naval Transport Service. To avoid confusion with vessels engaged here, your series should commence with 50. No. 610.

No. 649.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, India Office, 8th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the Government of Bombay have been desired, by telegram, to number their transports engaged on a time charter, commencing the series with number 50. No. 610. No. 648.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 650.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 8th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, and to acquaint you, in reply, that two messages have been sent by telegraph to the Government of Bombay, stating that arrangements have been made for the purchase of 5,000 mules, and inquiring whether they wished for a further supply, but no answer has yet been received. No. 543. Nos. 479 and 569.

2. Pending the receipt of a reply from that Government, Sir Stafford Northcote requests that Colonel Clark Kennedy may be instructed to extend his purchases from 5,000 to 8,000 mules, to meet the requirements of the Government of Bombay, as communicated to him by Captain Willoughby, provided that he can obtain them within the specified time, and on the conditions already prescribed.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 651.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 8th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of Major-General Pears's letter of this date, requesting that the purchases of mules may be extended from 5,000 to 8,000, provided they can be obtained within the specified time, and on the conditions prescribed; and, in reply, I am directed to state that immediate No. 650.

steps will be taken by this Department to procure the additional number of mules in the required time, viz., by the end of November. I am also requested to add, that Colonel Clark Kennedy is entrusted with the formation of the depôt, and with the reception and transit of the mules through Egypt, but that all the arrangements for purchasing the mules are directed and controlled by this Office.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 652.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 8th October 1867.

No. 564.

In continuation of my letter of the 2d instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed memorandum, showing the progress made in the purchase of mules, &c. for the Abyssinian expedition to the present date.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 652.

MEMORANDUM.

The following is the state and prospect of the mule business to this date, 7th October 1867:—

	In hand.	Promised or contracted for.
Malta	300	— 100 more if required.
Gibraltar	1,000	500 500 " " "
Alicante	905	800 400 or 500 more if required.
Valencia	314	200 " " " "
Brindisi	320	280 This number may be reduced.
Alexandria	—	— 2,000 if required.
Smyrna	—	500 At 22½ 10s.
Beyrout	50	450 At 20½ This number may be reduced.
Scanderoon	—	—
	2,889	2,730

Since the statement made on 30th ultimo, the depôt at Barcelona has been broken up, and the mules purchased there (141) have been sent to Valencia for embarkation.

From Scanderoon we have no reports, and it has been decided, if no purchases or contracts have been completed, that the depôt shall be broken up, but, if they have any mules, they are to be shipped to Alexandria, and no more procured.

The Constantinople party have moved to Smyrna, where they have contracted for 500 mules, at 22½ 10s. each, deliverable before the end of October.

Freight to Alexandria easily procurable at 2½ per mule.

From Beyrout it is reported that about 50 mules have been purchased for less than 20½ each, and that 500 can easily be procured. Freight to Alexandria can be obtained at about 1½ per mule.

The following are the freight arrangements:—

The five Admiralty steamers should now be loading at Gibraltar and the Spanish ports (805 mules).

The vessels hired by the War Office, "Thomas Snowden" (about 350 mules), will sail to-day, and the "Achilles" (about 400 mules) will sail on Friday; both to call at Gibraltar for orders.

The "Touraine" and "Bretagne" are contracted for to sail from Marseilles on 14th and 16th instant, for ports (to be named) on the coast of Spain.

The General Officer commanding at Malta reports that Colonel Kennedy has arranged for the transport of the mules (300) from that place.

From Brindisi, 73 mules were shipped to Alexandria direct on 30th ultimo, and about the same number will be shipped from there weekly till the middle or latter end of November.

7th October 1867.

No. 653.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 8th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter dated

25th September, which has been received from Colonel Clark Kennedy at Alexandria, reporting his operations in connexion with the provision of mules for the Abyssinian expedition; and I am to observe, with reference to the concluding paragraph of his report, that the delay in the despatch of the mule transports has already been explained to Colonel Kennedy.*

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 653.

Colonel CLARK KENNEDY to the Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Alexandria, 25th September 1867.

I have the honour, in continuation of my letter of the 19th instant, to report that, after waiting in vain all the next day in the hope of an interview with Khoorshid Pasha, who was unable to keep the appointment His Excellency had made, Mr. Reade and myself met him on the morning of the 21st instant, prior to our departure for Suez; and, the Viceroy having given his sanction to certain terms being proposed, the basis upon which the charge for the conveyance of mules by railway from Alexandria through Cairo to Suez was accepted by me, but, owing to some charges for the minor details of transport, which it is desirable should be consolidated in one sum, not being yet ascertained, I am unable to state the exact rate, but the highest possible charge that can now be made under any pretence whatever will be far below the expense of either taking the mules by the Suez Canal or marching across the country.

The exact terms in writing will be given to the Consul General in a day or two after the return of His Highness the Viceroy from Tanta to Cairo.

Osman Bey, on the part of the Government, accompanied us to Suez on the 21st, and, after going over the ground in the vicinity of the town, I selected a site for the dépôt on good ground, to the windward of the town, near the T arm of the freshwater canal, and close to the line of railway by which the mules will arrive.

The distance to the point of embarkation is about three quarters of a mile. The space is ample, and appears to have every sanitary advantage to be found in the desert.

The Governor of Suez approved of the site selected, and the ground is now at our disposal.

The tentage prepared at Cairo was inspected and approved of by Colonel Ross, Deputy Quarter-master-General, and myself, the bargaining being conducted by the Consular Agent in our presence. The tents are those of the country, reasonable in price. The tents purchased for the muleteers and native attendants are not quite so good as those brought for the Officers and men from England.

Filters and other articles that are necessary to the health of the establishment are being provided.

On the 22d, Captain M. Willoughby, of the Bombay Commissariat Department, the Officer adverted to in my letter of the 19th, arrived at Suez, together with two other Officers, one a Veterinary Surgeon, charged with the purchase of mules and pack-horses in Egypt and Syria, the purchase of forage, taking up vessels in the Red Sea for mule transport, &c.

The telegrams enclosed in my letter of the 19th prevent any clashing on account of two parties being in the market at the same time, and, as the contract for forage entered into on the 23d instant is of a favourable nature, and so extended as to enable any amount of forage (barley and chopped straw) to be drawn at Suez, requisitions from the Bombay authorities for forage to supply Red Sea transports, or for use upon first landing at the base of operations, can be complied with.

Any other articles required by the Bombay Government from Egypt, that are not transport animals or forage, can be purchased by Captain M. Willoughby or his Officers in the open market, without exciting any competition of interests.

From what I can learn, it does not appear that the Bombay Government are aware of the instructions which I have received, or of the arrangements made for the formation of a dépôt of mules at Suez for service with the Abyssinian expedition. Neither does it seem that any preparations have been made for sending mule transports to Suez, or providing syces for the mules during the voyage. I have informed Captain Willoughby that every assistance in our power will be given at Suez towards the shipment of the mules, and also towards obtaining any number of muleteers from this side of the isthmus which the Bombay Government may wish to engage to serve with the expedition, either by treating with them after their arrival in Egypt, or at the various ports from whence the mules are embarked for Alexandria.

Under the doubt existing as to transports being sent from Bombay to fetch the mules, and a telegram having reached Captain M. Willoughby to take up the "Samanoud" and other vessels in the Red Sea, the property of the Azeeziah Company, and offered through the Consul General to the British Government, Colonel Ross, Captain Willoughby, and myself went down to the roads and inspected the "Samanoud," a fine vessel of over 2,200 tons, well suited for the transport of mules or horses, and capable of carrying about 700 on each trip of about five days to Massowah; the other vessels are smaller and not so well suited for the service as the "Samanoud."

Several communications have been received from Officers buying mules, but until I receive an answer to my telegram of the 19th instant I am not able to reply, as I neither know the names, dates of sailing, or the destinations of the seven mule transports from England. If an answer is not

* See Note to Enclosure in No. 520.

received in a day or two the telegram will be repeated, for this is the 25th, and three of the vessels were to have sailed on the 9th instant, and I am so in the dark as not to be able to answer the Officers at the various ports.

I have, &c.,

J. CLARK KENNEDY, Colonel Commandant,
Military Train.

No. 654.

The Rev. Dr. KRAFF to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Kornthal, near Stuttgart,
8th October 1867.

Most honoured Sir,

No. 601.

I beg to inform you that I have received your letter, dated 4th instant, and have not failed communicating its contents to Mr. Haussmann, who begs you to convey his most respectful thanks to Sir Stafford Northcote, for having condescended to fix the amount of his salary at 500*l*.

In like manner I beg to convey my best thanks to Sir Stafford Northcote, for having given me permission to engage a few Abyssinians, at the monthly wages mentioned in your letter.

We shall leave this country, D.V., on Monday next (14th instant), proceeding to Marseilles, Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez, at which latter place we hope to meet with an English vessel bound for Massowah, where we shall wait for further orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the leading authorities of Her Majesty's force.

With profound respect, I am, &c.,

L. KRAFF.

No. 655.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
8th October 1867.

Sir,

With reference to the enclosed copy of a letter from the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, respecting the supply of coal at Aden, I have to request that you will be pleased to inform me whether 20,000 tons of coal are considered sufficient for the use of the Abyssinian expedition; also, whether it is known what number of steam ships, with their tonnage and horse-power, have been taken up at Bombay for this service.

I have, &c.,

W. R. MENDS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 655.

The Secretary of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to the Storekeeper
General of the Navy.

122, Leadenhall Street,
8th October 1867.

Sir,

Enclosure in
No. 76.

Referring to your letter of the 22d August last, requesting a supply of 20,000 tons of coals at Aden, in November next, for use of the Abyssinian expedition, and to reply of the 24th idem, intimating that the Company were prepared to hold at the disposal of Government 10,000 already on the spot, and would at once take up tonnage for the remaining quantity, I have now the honour to enclose copy of a telegram received from the Company's Agent at Aden, estimating the requirements for the service at little short of 30,000 tons. The Directors beg to submit this information for confirmation, and instructions as to the necessity for further strengthening the Company's stock of coal at Aden.

I am, &c.,

C. W. HOWELL.

Enclosure 2 in No. 655.

Telegram from the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Agent at Aden (received 4th October 1867).

The Government demand for coal from Aden dépôt, up to end of year, new transports inclusive, will not be far short of 30,000 tons.

No. 656.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 8th October 1867.

I have had the honour to lay before the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief your letter of the 5th instant, communicating the arrangements proposed by the Secretary of State for India in Council for the despatch to Suez of the two mountain batteries and rocket equipment for service in Abyssinia; and, in conveying to you His Royal Highness's concurrence in the proposals in question, I have to request you will acquaint Sir Stafford Northcote that Lieutenant Nolan, R.A. (the Senior Officer), has been selected to proceed, with five Non-commissioned Officers, in the "Serapis;" Lieutenant Chapman, and the five remaining Non-commissioned Officers, being detailed for the other vessel alluded to in your letter under acknowledgment. No. 618.

With reference to the 3d paragraph of your communication, I have to state that a nominal list of the detachment to proceed on the above service was furnished in my letter of the 5th instant. No. 617.

I have, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

No. 657.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

India Office, 8th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to thank you for your letter of the 4th instant, respecting the point from which the expedition into Abyssinia will start, and, in reply, to acquaint you that a copy of the letter, together with the enclosed extract and map, will be forwarded, for the information of the Government of Bombay. No. 589.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 658.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 8th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to inform you that a letter has been received from Mr. Laird, complaining that "the Government in Bombay are refusing to charter iron sailing ships as transports for the Abyssinian expedition." No. 527.

2. Before replying to Mr. Laird, Sir Stafford Northcote would be glad to be informed of the practice of the Lords of the Admiralty in determining the respective merits of iron and wooden vessels for transports.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 659.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 9th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you the enclosed extract of a letter, dated the 30th ultimo, from Colonel Clark Kennedy at Alexandria, reporting operations in connexion with the provision of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, and, in laying the same before the Secretary of State for India in Council, I am to request that you will call his attention to Colonel Kennedy's observations in respect to the facility with which pack-horses can be obtained in Turkey and Syria, and at far less cost than mules.

I am also to request to be favoured with Sir Stafford Northcote's wishes in respect to this Department carrying on operations in connexion with the purchasing mules beyond Suez, as contemplated by Colonel Kennedy, it having been understood that all trans-

actions on the Indian side of the isthmus would be made by the Government of Bombay.

Sir John Pakington will be glad to know further whether muleteers for service in Abyssinia are to be hired by the Officers of this Department or the Agent of the Indian Government in Egypt.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 659.

Extract of Letter from Colonel CLARK KENNEDY to the Secretary of State for War, dated Alexandria, 30th September 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 12th instant and of the following day, and, in continuation of my letter of the 25th instant, to report as follows:—

The charge for the conveyance of the mules from Alexandria to Suez by railway has been fixed at 160 tariff piastres (about 33s.) per mule, which includes the fares of muleteers and those in charge. The rate is fair and reasonable, and, unless the pressure upon the railway becomes too severe, there is every prospect of the service being carried out. Owing to the usual delays in all business matters in Egypt, the official letter containing the terms has not yet been received, but the proposition has been verbally accepted.

The offer of the Suez Canal Company has been declined, but, should events make it desirable to attempt the conveyance of mules by that route, arrangements can be made in the course of a few days.

The first arrival of mules is expected in two days' time, to the number of 60, from Brindisi; the weekly steamers to continue to bring from 60 to 70 by every trip.

The reports from Beyrout and Aleppo (Scanderoon) promise to afford their quota, and the mules from those districts will be more efficient for service in the Abyssinian climate than those from Spain or Italy. A steamer will either be taken up here and sent to those ports when a full cargo is ready, or else they will be sent down in lots by some of the various coasting steamers; either way the charge will be about 2*l.* per mule. An estimate of numbers cannot yet be given.

With respect to the 300 mules at Malta awaiting embarkation, proposals were put out yesterday for a steamer to be taken up for their conveyance here, and terms will be concluded on the 1st or 2d proximo. The quarantine still continues, and, were one of the mule transports from England to communicate with Malta and embark mules, there would be very great difficulties in using her in the Mediterranean, and, although the quarantine here with a clean bill of health is only five days, yet a single case of illness amongst the muleteers or crew, or a death, would deprive the Government of its use at the very time most needed. From what I learn it will cost about 1,500*l.* to take up a vessel to call at Malta for the mules on its return voyage from the westward.

Upon the receipt of the mail of the 26th, informing me for the first time that the number of mule transports was reduced to five, immediate steps were taken to press the purchase of mules in Egypt; an Officer and Veterinary Surgeon were sent on the 28th to Tanta, where it was stated mules were to be had. The expedition failed. Notices are out for Alexandria and Cairo, and probably a few hundreds may be obtained.

The accounts of Cyprus as an island abounding with mules are good. The first steamer for Larnaca does not sail from here until the 10th, and on that day it is intended to send Major Sherinton and a Veterinary Surgeon, unless any change takes place in present arrangements.

I am also endeavouring to obtain reliable information as to the prospect of getting mules together at Souakin on the Red Sea, which, although some distance from the Abyssinian frontier, is in constant communication with Tigré, and it is supposed that, were it once known that mules could be purchased there, they would be brought from Tigré in considerable numbers. I trust to be able to get some definite information in a day or two, as the person best able to give it is supposed to be at Cairo, and I have requested him to come down to Alexandria.

It would be a point of the first importance to be able to secure, at a reasonable rate, a proportion of Abyssinian mules, especially at the outset of the expedition. A few hours would enable the steam transports to fetch the mules from Souakin and land them at Massowah.

With respect to the requisition of the Bombay Government for 3,000 additional transport animals, which was transmitted by telegraph on the 28th instant, arrangements are being considered for the supply of that number at Suez by the 20th November, but no actual steps will be taken until your orders are received. I have, however, telegraphed to-day to Commissary-General Downes, who will arrive at Smyrna to-morrow, to accept a tender for the delivery of 250 mules from Syria at Suez overland by the 20th November, at the rate of 26*l.* 10*s.* a mule. If the purchase of the 3,000 is sanctioned, these 250 will form a portion of that number, and, if not, they will be a small reserve to meet any loss or failure in numbers from other places.

From what I can learn from Captain M. Willoughby, the Bombay authorities wish for a portion of their transport to be pack-horses; they can be procured in Egypt and Syria at a much less cost than mules. The telegraphic reply to my telegram of the 28th will probably convey you orders on that point, pack-horses being mentioned as well as mules.

No. 660.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

War Office, October 9, 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and enclosure from the British Acting Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, reporting the arrival of Colonel Clark Kennedy and Staff, and the facilities granted by the Egyptian Government for the transit through Egypt of the mules for the Abyssinian expedition and otherwise.

No. 585.

In reply I am to request that you will convey to Lord Stanley an expression of Sir John Pakington's concurrence in his Lordship's proposal to instruct Mr. Reade to express to the Egyptian Government the cordial thanks of that of Her Majesty for granting the assistance thus afforded.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 661.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 9th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a demand received from the Admiralty for 100 short Snider rifles, with ammunition, for the Rocket Brigade proceeding from Bombay to Aden for service in Abyssinia; and, in the event of Sir Stafford Northcote concurring in this supply, I am to request you will have the goodness to inform me what steps should be taken for the despatch of the stores.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 661.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Admiralty, 7th October 1867.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will move the Secretary of State for War to cause one hundred short Sniders, with ammunition, to be sent to Aden, for the Rocket Brigade, which will arrive at that place in the "Octavia," from Bombay.

I am, &c.,
W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 662.

The Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Bank of England, 9th October 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a further amount of 124,000 dollars has been shipped by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer of the 5th instant, to Captain Henry Johnson, the Agent of the Indian Government at Alexandria.

The drawing account of the Secretary of State in Council of India has been debited, on account of this shipment, to-day, 26,200*l*.

I am to add, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that the shipments already advised have been paid for at an approximate rate of fl. 2.62 *g*, and exchange of fl. 124 per 10*l*., but that a detailed account, will be rendered, so soon as the full particulars of the purchases shall have been received from Vienna.

With reference to your letter of the 4th instant, I have further to add that, immediately upon receipt thereof, the necessary instructions were telegraphed to Vienna, for the transmission of the specimens of the "Maria Theresa" dollars, required by the Secretary of State for India, for the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. When received, they shall at once be forwarded to you in accordance with your instructions.

I am, &c.,
F. MAY,
Deputy Chief Cashier.

Telegram from Colonel BLANE, St. Petersburg, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards (received 9th October 1867).

See No. 640. General Petapoff telegraphs, transport of horses from Rastoff to Odessa about 27. 15s. each, but there are no vessels at this moment, as season too far advanced. Better to send horses by land to Jaman opposite Kertch. He will inquire from Steam Company as to transport from Jaman.

Staff Assistant Surgeon A. NEILL to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Edinburgh, 9th October 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 5th October 1867, requesting me to put in writing suggestions relative to the health of the troops proceeding on the expedition to Abyssinia, and to report on certain measures proposed for adoption, in prevention of disease in that country; and I would respectfully suggest that copies of this paper be placed in the hands of the medical officers proceeding to Abyssinia, for their information.

In the first place, I would remark briefly on the climate, and on this subject great variety of opinion seems to exist, caused, doubtless, by observations made at different seasons of the year; for the climate differs as much in each season as it does elsewhere, and also differs more materially in various parts of the country at the same season.

Rain falls often in winter, if it can be called a winter, which is by far the pleasantest season in the year. In January and February rain fell in 20 days along the sea coast, and 100 miles inland in 12 out of 58 days. Barometer averaged in both months 29' 60", and thermometer 85° along the sea coast. Inland thermometer was about five degrees lower. These observations were taken in the sun, in the shade, and at night, along the sea coast. Thermometer during nine months averaged 90°, but inland 100 miles, on high ground, averaged only 65°. During the greatest heat of the day, near the coast, the thermometer, in sun, was 120°, but this was exceptional. Along the coast line, and that of Nubia also, and for a distance of about 60 miles inland, the temperature is much greater, and the rainfall less than it is inland, where the elevation is considerable, being chiefly one high land or plateau ranging beyond another, and at an elevation generally of 2,000 feet above the level of the sea.

The heat of Abyssinia is not so great as at Aden; at any rate it does not feel so oppressive. In the summer months it is pleasantly warm on the elevated plateau that runs along the Tigré district, and in winter is even chilly, towards night especially. Taking it altogether, the climate is not conducive to disease, but is healthy and adapted to the European constitution.

The high land is wooded closely in some parts, and traversed by running streams. Grass grows in abundance, and a shrub is very plentiful on which cattle feed, so that a supply of forage exists for beasts of burden. In these districts sheep and cattle thrive, and poultry are plentiful. Grain of all descriptions can also be procured, but not in great quantity. The water supplied from streams can be depended on as pure, and fit for drinking. After a heavy rainfall the waters become yellowish, and sometimes brackish, the former caused by washing away of surface soil, and the latter by the existence of salt in mountain chains. When in this state troops should be prohibited from its use, as it induces rapid attacks of dysentery and diarrhoea. Where it is merely tinted with clay, the natives use it after boiling, without any injurious effects. If troops be encamped in these high plains, particular attention should be paid to the water supply. Throughout Abyssinia running streams are safe for use, excepting before-mentioned instances, but where wells are used great care must be observed in the preservation of the water. If an old open well be come to, with vegetation around and hanging in the water, *let it be avoided*.

Wells in use must be kept closely shut after sunset, or the water becomes a repository for the ova of certain insects, that develop into worms rapidly in the stomach of those who drink the water, and once in the system are difficult to eradicate. Another reason against the use of such wells is, that the water during autumn is impregnated with certain poisonous principles, exuded from the leaves of the plants hanging in the water, and not altered by boiling. The effects on the system are somewhat like colic,

and often simulate cholera, to a casual observer. To avoid these results, dig new wells close to the old,—pure water quickly filters through,—and keep the ground around each cleared, and mouth of well closed at nightfall, for during that time the insects are hovering over the still water, and are depositing their ova.

During July, August, and September a small pink-headed fly is troublesome to those who are either in or near to any clump of trees. It exudes on the skin a juice, if bruised, which vesicates, and creates a painful sore difficult to heal, but treated by the natives with the application of sea-water.

In the stems of a species of elm honey is often found, and is the produce of a bee resembling that of this country. This honey is poisonous, and creates giddiness, flushing of the face, and all the head symptoms of a "coup-de-soleil," but with vomiting super-added. The best remedy is to assist the vomiting by copious drinks of warm fluids, with an admixture of sesqui-carbonate of soda. The poisonous quality of this honey is derived from the flowers of a variety of acacia or wattle on which the bees feed.

Prior to a march, hot tea and coffee should be given to the troops, and a medical officer should precede the main body to examine the various drinking places, and post a sentry over each suspicious well. In most places water will be found at about three feet below the surface.

The troops should invariably have flannel next the skin, and should be taught to change their wet shirt for a dry one while they are still warm at end of each day's march, and dry the damp one for next day's use. Preserve same precautions as observed in India against exposure to sun. Permit troops to bathe their feet often during the march in the running water only, and to march with socks over their trousers to keep out sand-flies (which will disable the men by irritation from their bites), and lessen the risk of Guinea worm, which is not so troublesome as has been supposed; in fact, most objections raised against the country have been overstated.

These remarks, which are very much abridged, apply to the districts of the higher lands of Tigré and Shoa, and I now proceed to allude to the coast line and low-lying districts through which troops must pass. I would impress forcibly the necessity for ceasing the issue of raw spirits to the troops, as practised in the field. Its effects will be most disastrous, and could do no possible good to the soldier. Beer and porter, if available, ought to be given, but, if rum must perforce be given, let it be well diluted, and not just before meals, but afterwards. I feel convinced that as much sickness would be induced by the use of raw rum, in such a climate, as would result from any evil effects of the climate by itself.

Along the coast country, syphilis is common, and of a phagædenic type. Native women should on no account be permitted to follow the troops, as they will do, for one infected native female will infect a score of men in a few hours. Particular care on this subject should be exercised while the men are within fifty miles of the coast; beyond that, the women are comparatively safe, as the men in those districts will not cohabit with the women near the sea.

Ophthalmia is common during the dry season, and easily propagated in this climate by the numerous insects that are always alighting on the face and hands.

The heat near the coast is great, and as it is chiefly flat and low lying it is consequently subject to malaria, from which the natives suffer most. They have a type of fever, subject to frequent remissions, and treated by the use of a bitter herb common among the hills. Quinine superseded its use, and in every case effected a cure.

Dysentery and diarrhœa range next in the order of frequency, and caused most of the deaths; but, with ordinary precaution and foresight, these diseases will not prove more fatal to the soldier in Abyssinia than in India. I would suggest the forming of a permanent hospital establishment, on a large dépôt scale, at the nearest point on the elevated lands to that of disembarkation, so that all sick could be forwarded easily to and from it. A great difficulty will exist in transit until roads are made where tracks only exist. The temperature at the Sanitarium would be more equable and cooler than it ever can be on the coast or at sea. In the harbours it will be found extremely hot, and with a moist, warm, and steamy atmosphere in the evenings. As materials are plentiful for hut building, I would recommend the erection of a few large hospital huts on the New Zealand native plan, which can easily be put up, and are very cool and shady, and are much to be preferred to tents. They can easily be made from the materials which exist everywhere near swampy ground, such as sedges and reeds.

The buildings are not calculated to last for more than a few seasons, but, as the materials are on the spot, and labour plentiful, the actual cost of construction would be far less than that of transport alone for tents and marquees.

A framework of timber is put up by posts sunk in the ground (previously cleared), and by means of a few nails this framework is kept together. The side wall should be

eight feet high, and roof with sufficient slope, then the whole building is thatched with materials at hand, and is ready for occupation. In New Zealand the troops occupied such huts for many months, and were more healthy in them than in tents.

In such an abridged account as this it is impossible to allude to many matters of much interest, scientific and practical; but, as I have attempted to afford information of a country that seems almost as unknown to medical men as to others, in as abbreviated a form as possible, I have been compelled to overlook much that I would otherwise have enlarged upon.

Under a few heads I shall now group my advice, which I hope may be found useful in guiding medical officers and others.

- 1st. Issue no raw spirits, or else diluted spirit *after* meals and not before.
- 2d. Issue bitter beer and porter.
- 3d. Avoid contact with native women of the coast.
- 4th. Issue hot coffee before a march, and the same at its close.
- 5th. Allow the troops to bathe their feet at each stream, and to march with trousers tucked in socks.
- 6th. A medical officer, if possible, in advance of main body on the march to examine wells and streams, and post sentry over each suspicious place till troops have passed.
- 7th. Charcoal in pieces to be put in wells to purify the water at camps. Charcoal can be made on the spot.
- 8th. Troops to be cautioned against eating wild honey or unknown fruits, and avoid risk of being bitten by flies.
- 9th. Troops should change their shirts for dry ones at once on conclusion of a march, while the body is still heated, and not wait till it be cooled.
- 10th. Never encamp near bush or moist ground, and guard troops against danger from hippopotami and snakes.

I have mentioned the risk of being stung by flies in the bush; I should state that this means the scrub or undergrowth. The forest consists of tamarind, elm, sycamore, and acacias of various species. The hippopotamus, giraffe, zebra, and various serpents are common. Cattle and sheep, with the usual variety of poultry, can be easily procured; wheat, barley, maize, durra, and tokussa, a species of eleusine, are plentiful; beans and lentils, garlic and onions, capsicums, coffee, grapes, figs, pomegranates, and cotton are extensively produced, and especially the leguminous vegetables, in large amount.

The chief exports are slaves, ivory, gold, coffee, cattle, and iron, by way of Massowah to the ports of the Red Sea and India. Imports are chiefly by way of Suez and Jeddah, and consist of the chief Egyptian and Indian products. The natives are occupied in the weaving and dyeing of a coarse cloth for home use, tanning of leather, and iron smelting.

I have now endeavoured to give a concise account of the country, with its diseases, &c., and shall be amply repaid if any of these suggestions, or the information contained, should be thought worthy of being printed, and if they shall be found to be of service, either in distributing information, the prevention of sickness, or in conducing to the comfort and welfare of our troops.

I have, &c.,

ALEXANDER NEILL,
Staff Assistant Surgeon.

No. 665.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 9th, 1867.

Besides poles and tents, one Engineer subaltern and 12 European signallers are required from Bombay. See Major Champain's letter of September 3d, forwarded to you on the 14th. These will make all complete for 450 miles.

No. 666.

Lieutenant LE MESSURIER to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Brompton Barracks, Chatham,
9th October 1867.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 4th October 1867, and to state that I am quite willing to undertake the charge of the party about to be employed in well-sinking in Abyssinia.

In reply to
No. 571.

No. 190.
No. 359.

No. 587.

I have placed myself in communication with Colonel Simmons, C.B., Director Royal Engineer Establishment, and hold myself under his orders.

I have, &c.,

A. LE MESSURIER, Lieut. R.E.

No. 667.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.*

Sir, India Office, 9th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to inform your Excellency that the bearer of this letter, the Rev. Dr. Krapf, has been engaged by him to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia, and directed to place his services at your Excellency's disposal. It will be within your Excellency's knowledge, that Dr. Krapf rendered most useful services to the mission to Shoa, under the command of Major Cornwallis Harris, in 1841-42, for which he received the thanks of the Bombay Government. A copy of the correspondence connected with his engagement is enclosed for your Excellency's information.

Nos. 313,
390, 391, 480,
477, 478, and
511.

The remuneration to which Dr. Krapf will be entitled under his agreement with Her Majesty's Government is 600*l.*, of which sum he has been permitted to draw on this Office for 300*l.*, the remainder being payable to him after the termination of the expedition.

I am, &c.,

CLINTON.

No. 668.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 9th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, and to acquaint you in reply that directions have been given that four Otago pack-saddles be sent immediately to Chatham on loan, to enable the Officers there to fit the signalling and photographic apparatus under provision for Abyssinia, for transport.

No. 582.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 669.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 9th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to request, in reply, that his thanks may be conveyed to the Chargé d'Affaires at Berne, and that he may be instructed to make further inquiries respecting the person residing in Switzerland who is represented to be a native of Abyssinia.

No. 617.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 670.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, India Office, 9th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a requisition will probably be made shortly for passage on board the "Serapis" to

* Similar letters were sent on behalf of the Rev. Mr. Haussmann and Mr. Dufton.

Egypt, and thence to Aden, for a detachment consisting of one Officer and five Non-commissioned Officers and men, in charge of the battery of mountain guns which is to be despatched in that vessel for the Abyssinian expedition.

2. A further communication will be made, so soon as a reply shall have been received from the Horse Guards to a letter requesting further information on the subject.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 671.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 9th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, upon the requisition of Colonel Kennedy, C.B., commanding the Military Train at Alexandria, orders have been given for the issue of the serge clothing and knee boots, as per margin.*

	No.
* Tunics, blue serge, Sergeant-Majors' - - -	4
" " Sergeants' - - -	7
" " rank and file - - -	21
Trousers, blue serge, Sergeant-Majors' - - -	4
" " Sergeants' - - -	7
" " rank and file - - -	21
Boots, knee, brown leather, for winter - pairs	20

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 672.

Dr. BEKE to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Bekesbourne, October 9, 1867.

No. 57.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Murray's letter of the 27th of August, and to express my thanks for your Lordship's promise that the letter which I took the liberty of addressing to you on the 20th of that month shall be printed in the next collection of papers respecting Abyssinia to be laid before Parliament.

Though I cannot but believe that in my said letter I have sufficiently proved the falsehood of Mr. Rassam's accusation against me, I have, nevertheless, felt myself bound to show the real cause of the failure of that gentleman's mission with all its calamitous consequences, in order that it may be clearly seen where the blame really lies of having occasioned the costly and precarious warlike operations which are now being undertaken by Her Majesty's Government.

The facts elucidatory of a subject so materially affecting the honour and the interests of the British nation are set forth by me in a letter dated the 7th instant, which appeared in the "Morning Herald" newspaper of yesterday, a copy of which letter I now beg leave to lay before your Lordship:—

"THE CAUSE OF THE ABYSSINIAN WAR.

"To the Editor.

"As the British taxpayer is deeply interested in learning the truth as to the origin of the present costly war with the Emperor of Abyssinia, I avail myself of the columns of your widely circulating journal to give publicity to some important facts connected with the subject which I believe to be not generally known.

"In August 1864, Mr. Rassam was made the bearer of a letter from Her Majesty the Queen to the Emperor Theodore, which letter he delivered to that monarch in person on January 28, 1866. In a despatch to Her Majesty's Government, dated the 22nd or 23rd of March following, Mr. Rassam reported his favourable reception, and gave a narrative of events from his arrival at the Emperor's Court almost down to the imprisonment of himself and the other members of the Mission, together with the former captives who had been liberated in compliance with Her Majesty's request.

"This most important document is not printed among the papers laid before Parliament. But an abstract of it, made by Colonel Merewether for the use of the Government

of Bombay, appeared in the 'Times of India' of July 21, 1866, was thence copied in England into the 'Jewish Intelligence' of October 1st following, and has since been printed, with a running comment, in my work 'The British Captives in Abyssinia.' Could it have been foreseen that Her Majesty's Envoy, with the liberated captives, would be detained and imprisoned, this abstract assuredly would never have seen the light; Mr. Rassam's narrative being manifestly adapted for an anticipated triumph rather than for the lamentable failure which has ensued.

"According to that narrative the Emperor, shortly after the receipt of the Queen's letter, sent orders to Magdala for the liberation of the captives, and wrote to Her Majesty a most respectful and friendly letter. In so doing he must be understood to have condoned all previous offences, whether on the part of the British Government or of any individuals; and his subsequent change of conduct has, therefore, to be attributed to some fresh grievance, real or imaginary. For it cannot be believed that he would have been so senseless as to quarrel again with England almost immediately without some ostensible reason.

"A translation of the Emperor's answer is printed in page 35 of the Abyssinian Blue Book; but the Queen's letter is not given, although Her Majesty's subsequent letter of October 4, 1866, is printed in page 77.

"From the absence of a copy of the Queen's first letter, it cannot be said what was its precise tenour. Still it is certain that it was not limited to the simple demand for the liberation of Her Majesty's Consul and his companions in captivity, but contained some offer and held out some promises for the future. Indeed, traces of this are perceptible in the Emperor's letter to Mr. Rassam of March 14, 1866 (Blue Book, page 114), wherein he states, 'In the letter which my friend the Queen sent it is thus said: "We have sent to you, Mr. Rassam . . . Consult with him concerning " what you require of us, and he will do it for you."' And, again, Mr. Flad, in his Report to the Earl of Clarendon, of July 10, 1866 (Blue Book, page 36), puts into the Emperor's mouth the following words with reference to the Queen:—She says, in her letter, everything I wish Mr. Rassam will do for you.

"It is true that on the former passage Mr. Rassam makes this curious note:—'I do not know how this passage has crept into the translation. It was deemed inexpedient to discuss the matter.' And on the latter passage Mr. Flad makes the not less remarkable observation. 'There was one sentence in Her Majesty's letter which was just the contrary to its meaning translated.'

"When the Queen's letter is laid before Parliament it will be seen what Her Majesty really did say. Meanwhile, it is clear, from the statement of Mr. Waldemeier, the Chief of Bishop Gobat's lay missionaries (otherwise the Emperor's European workmen), dated March 20, 1866, and published in the 'Record' of 11th July following, that an arrangement of some kind was proposed and agreed to, for he says—'It is possible, as Mr. Rassam tells me, that, in consequence of some Treaty between England and Abyssinia, there may be more liberty for Europeans to come to Abyssinia and leave it again at pleasure.'

"From the whole tenour of the Emperor Theodore's conduct from the very outset, it is certain that he had nothing more at heart than an alliance with England, and the Treaty thus entered into with Mr. Rassam would naturally have seemed to him the realization of his fondest wishes. What then could have given him a more painful shock than to learn that the British Government did not desire an alliance with him; and to be told this on no less an authority than that of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs!

"In order to explain this it is necessary to go back to what occurred in the latter half of the year 1865, several months before Mr. Rassam reached the Emperor's Court.

"In July of that year, when nearly a twelvemonth had elapsed, and Mr. Rassam had not proceeded further than Massowah with Her Majesty's letter, Earl Russell decided on recalling that gentleman and sending out Mr. Palgrave in his stead. The latter was already in Egypt and on the very eve of proceeding up the Nile to Abyssinia when Mr. Rassam suddenly made his appearance at Suez on September 5, 1865, and telegraphed to Colonel Stanton that Consul Cameron had been released, which news Colonel Stanton instantly repeated to the Foreign Office. On the same day, however, Mr. Rassam addressed a letter to Earl Russell, contradicting the intelligence which had been communicated by telegraph.

"Mr. Rassam's said letter has not been laid before Parliament, but a portion of its contents is given by Earl Russell in his despatch to Colonel Stanton, dated October 5, 1865, which is printed among the papers respecting Abyssinia, laid before Parliament just before the close of the session 1866.

" Though the contents of Mr. Rassam's letter have not been made public, it cannot be doubted that in it the certain prospect was held out of the speedy release of Consul Cameron and the other captives; and as Her Majesty's Government appear at that time to have determined on abandoning Abyssinia as soon as ever Mr. Rassam and the others should have left the country, Earl Russell thought fit to write to Colonel Stanton his memorable despatch of October 5, 1865, wherein he declared that 'considering the short tenure of power in the Abyssinian Kings, whatever be their title, the difficulty of reaching with a regular British force their seats of Empire, and the little value of a victory gained at Gondar and Shoa, the risk of failure, and the certainty of expense, it had seemed to the British Government a preferable course to withdraw, as much as possible, from Abyssinian engagements, Abyssinian alliances, and British interference in Abyssinia.'

" Unhappily his Lordship did not content himself with merely laying this down as a rule for the guidance of Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, or at most with authorizing him to make the contents of his despatch known to the Government of that country, deferring its publication until such time as Mr. Rassam and the captives should be known to be safely out of the power of the Abyssinian monarch. On the contrary, for some reason which is only to be guessed at, this despatch was published in the 'London Gazette' of October 31, 1865, whence, on the following morning, it was copied into all the daily newspapers, and from these in turn translated into several of the continental journals, especially those of France.

" The fatal nature of this step is evidenced by the following statement of Mr. Flad, in his letter to the Earl of Clarendon of July 10, 1866 (Blue Book, page 41) :—

" 'I must say the Government, as well as the different societies like that who sent out Dr. Beke, acted very imprudently since our captivity began. If some of those letters and despatches would be sent by one of our enemies to King Theodore, they would be enough to provoke his indignation in such a way that he would kill in one day, not only those who have English blood in their veins, but every one who is from the European race.'

" And in a foot note he prominently instances this identical missive of October 5, 1865, saying, 'for example, the despatch of Lord Russell to the Political Agent and Consul-General in Egypt.'

" As both Earl Russell and Mr. Layard have repeatedly deprecated in Parliament, in the strongest terms, the expression of anything at all likely to give offence to the Emperor Theodore, and to endanger the success of Mr. Rassam's mission, if not even the lives of the captives, this glaring inconsistency is quite unaccountable, except upon the supposition of its having been confidently anticipated that ere the knowledge of this inauspicious document could possibly reach Abyssinia Mr. Rassam would have obtained the liberation of the captives, and have succeeded in altogether leaving the country with them. If this was really the calculation of the authorities of the Foreign Office they were woefully mistaken, as I now proceed to show.

" A few days after my arrival at Massowah, in January 1866, I was informed by M. Munzinger, the French Vice-Consul there, who had recently been placed by Colonel Merewether in charge of the British Consulate likewise, that a French newspaper, containing a translation of Lord Russell's despatch, had been received in Massowah a short time previously; and, having himself read it, he expressed 'the opinion that, if a knowledge of the contents of that despatch should reach the Emperor Theodore, he would assuredly regard it as an absolute withdrawal of friendship on the part of England, if not as a declaration of hostilities, and might, consequently, be expected to treat British subjects within his dominions as prisoners of war.'

" The foregoing passage is copied verbatim from page 240 of my work, already cited, where it is further stated that 'when I was at Massowah, there were several persons there quite willing and able to forward the French translation of Earl Russell's despatch into Abyssinia, and M. Bardel was there to read it to the Emperor, making such comments on it as he might think best suited to inflame his mind against the British Government and everybody dependent on or connected with them.'

" At that time I did not name any of the persons thus alluded to, neither did I mention what I now copy from my diary, written on the spot, namely, that M. Munzinger said 'he did not at all believe that any one had thought it worth while to repeat to Theodore anything that had appeared in the newspapers.' Still he expressed his decided opinion that if a knowledge of the contents of that despatch should reach the Emperor, then the result would be as I have just stated.

" I must confess that I was and still am at a loss to understand M. Munzinger's avowed belief that 'no one would think it worth while,' seeing that he must be well acquainted

as every one is who knows Massowah, with the character of Padre Del Monte, his own intimate friend and agent during his frequent absences from Massowah, who is the person I had specially in my mind when I noted down what is written above, and respecting whom Colonel Merewether has thus expressed himself in his letter to Lord Stanley of February 28, 1867 (Blue Book, page 128): 'An intriguing priest named Delamonté had a copy of Earl Russell's despatch to Colonel Stanton. This Delamonté corresponds, I know, with Bardel, and most probably communicated the essence of that despatch, which was used by Bardel to promote his views.'

"Colonel Merewether adds that a spy of the King was at Massowah at the end of April and beginning of May 1866, and visited the Roman Catholic (French) mission, and saw Del Monte there, and he would seem to imply that it was through the instrumentality of this spy that the contents of Earl Russell's despatch were communicated to Bardel. It is, however, in my power to demonstrate that it had been sent from Massowah several months previously.

"When M. Munzinger told me on January 24, 1866, that he had read that despatch in a French newspaper, I was anxious to see it, and requested him to ask Padre Del Monte to lend it me to read, but though he sent me several other French papers containing information respecting Mr. Rassam, the captives, and myself, M. Munzinger was unable to procure me the one I wanted, and as there is no conceivable reason why Padre Del Monte should not have let me see it with the other newspapers if it had still been in his possession, whilst it was urgent that he should lose no time in making M. Bardel acquainted with it, in order to foil Mr. Rassam, it may assuredly be concluded that he had already sent it off into the interior. Assuming this to be the case, and that it had taken two months to reach Massowah (which is more than sufficient), that no time was lost in forwarding it to M. Bardel (which under the circumstances is only natural), and that it took six weeks to reach its destination (which is a fair average), we have the beginning of January 1866 for the date of its arrival at Massowah, and the middle of the ensuing month, February, for that of its arrival at Zegay.

"Now Mr. Rassam had reached the Emperor's Court with the Queen's letter on January 28, 1866, and as that letter was all that Theodore could possibly desire, there is no ground whatever for imagining him not to have been perfectly sincere, at that early period, in his friendly reception of Her Majesty's Envoy, in his conduct generally towards him, and in his liberation of the captives and delivery of them over to him, and the treaty which Mr. Rassam negotiated with him would only have tended to strengthen his kindly feelings towards the whole party.

"About the middle of February, however, arrived the ill-omened despatch of Earl Russell, expressing the aversion of the British Government to Abyssinian engagements and alliances.

"With the Queen's letter and the treaty in one hand, and Earl Russell's despatch in the other, what could Theodore believe but that Her Majesty's Government were dealing falsely and treacherously with him, and that when once Mr. Rassam and the captives should be out of the country, the treaty just entered into would become a dead letter, if, indeed, it were not absolutely repudiated, as having been negotiated without authority, or for some other plausible reason? Hence his determination that the British Envoy should not quit the country till some material guarantee had first been obtained for the sincerity of England, and hence the arrest and detention of the whole party on April 13, 1866.

"It remains to be seen how far the dates of the several occurrences tally. In a note made by Mr. Rassam on the Emperor's letter to him of March 23 (Blue Book, page 116), that gentleman says that at the interview consequent on that letter, His Majesty 'consulted with all his nobles and best advisers about our leaving Abyssinia, and it was determined that we should all depart thence.' And a week afterwards the Emperor wrote to Mr. Rassam, that as soon as certain presents should be completed, 'I wish you to hold yourselves in readiness to start (for Europe), by the power of God' (Blue Book, page 117).

"Of course, this was not at all meant, but was simply deceit against supposed treachery; for Mr. Flad reports to the Earl of Clarendon (Blue Book, page 37) that 'a month before we had received the King's order to start, it was reported by the natives that the King intended to keep Mr. Rassam and the released prisoners, in order to get a "kassa" (ransom) satisfaction from the Queen of England.' Now, remarkably enough, one month before March 23 would be February 23; whilst calculating from the other end, we have been brought to the middle of February as the

approximate date of the arrival at Zegay of Earl Russell's despatch. The conclusion, therefore, is inevitable, that that despatch was the immediate cause of Mr. Rassam's detention, and thus led to all the evils which have since ensued, and it is to be feared have yet to come.

"Bekesbourne, October 7.

"I am, &c.,
"CHARLES BEKE."

To the facts thus stated I would beg leave to add that, according to the evidence adduced in my letter to your Lordship of 20th August last, the messenger, who carried my letter to the Emperor with the petition from the relatives of the captives, left Massowah on 30th January 1866, and reached Korata on 15th March, having been just six weeks on the journey: and that the rumour of my arrival at Massowah preceded my messenger only two days.

The facts now submitted to your Lordship afford, therefore, a proof (if such further proof were requisite), in addition to those already recorded, that my mission had nothing whatever to do with Mr. Rassam's disgrace, in spite of the attempts made by him and his patron Mr. Layard, as well as by his brother-in-law Mr. Badger, to attribute the blame to me. At the same time, these facts suggest an all-sufficient motive for the earnest desire evinced by them to make me the scapegoat for the sins of others, now that Mr. Rassam's fellow prisoners, Mr. Stern and Consul Cameron, are no longer available for that purpose.

In implicit reliance on your Lordship's inflexible sense of justice, I respectfully request you to allow the present letter to be likewise printed in the next collection of papers relating to Abyssinia that may be laid before Parliament.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES BEKE.

No. 673.

The Principal Transport Officer in Egypt to the Military Secretary, India Office.
(Received October 9th, 1867.)

British Transport Office, Alexandria, Egypt,
30th September 1867.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I received your telegram on the 28th instant, which was dated 25th September, having gone by way of Constantinople, instead of *via* Malta. The two final words in it were not distinct enough to enable me to make certain of their meaning, but I was under the impression that they were "from Alexandria to Port Said."

I am aware that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India considers it advisable that, to a certain extent, the Egyptian railway traffic should be diverted, by making use of the French Maritime Canal; and, in the present instance, my having to send to Suez a large quantity of military stores, I see how advantageous it would be if I could avail myself of this mode of conveyance; but the detention would be great, as the Company do not guarantee sending stores through from Port Said under 10 days, and as the season advances the rise in insurance premium is very considerable; from Alexandria to Port Said it is 33 per cent. after the 10th of October, showing an enormous increase of risk.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Directors have telegraphed to their agent to place the "Precursor hulk" at my disposal, which will make an excellent dépôt in Suez Roads; and I have hired a store in the town of Suez, at 10% per month.

I reported in my letter of the 18th of September 1867, that I required nothing more than local assistance; the checking and transit clerks I shall have to pay liberally, as they are employed for temporary duty.

The person immediately under my direction will receive 1*l.* a day, and the others at the rate of 20*l.* per month as checking clerks; and at present I see no necessity for employing more than five,—two for Suez, and three for Alexandria.

The crews of my tenders here and at Suez will render assistance, when not required for the India overland troop service; and two carpenters will be in attendance, to secure with iron bands, &c., any cases that may be damaged.

I am of opinion that these stores will be better worked through in this mode than by

a staff from the Store Department, who would require some time to feel their way in this country.

I am, &c.,

JAMES P. WILLOUGHBY, Captain, R.N.,
Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

No. 674.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 10th October 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 18th September, in compliance with the request contained in which Lord Stanley was pleased to recommend the Rev. Dr. Krapf to the good offices of the Consul General in Egypt, I am now directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to request that the same good offices may be extended to Dr. Krapf's colleagues, Mr. Henry Dufton and the Rev. Mr. Haussmann. No. 404.

Mr. Dufton, I am to add, purposes to leave for Massowah by the first Italian steamer from Brindisi; and Dr. Krapf and Mr. Haussmann will leave Stuttgart on the 14th instant.

Copies of the correspondence connected with the engagement of these gentlemen, and of the credentials furnished them, will hereafter be transmitted for Lord Stanley's information.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 675.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India.

Secret, No. 6.

Sir, India Office, 10th October 1867.

I forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of the papers noted on the margin,* respecting the Abyssinian expedition.

* Correspondence respecting Dr. Krapf, and Mr. Dufton.

I have, &c.,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 676.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir, India Office, 10th October 1867.

I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to forward, for delivery to Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, K.C.B., copies of the papers noted on the margin,† respecting the expedition to Abyssinia under his command.

† Correspondence respecting Dr. Krapf, and Mr. Dufton.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 677.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 10, 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 19th ultimo, instructing you to take steps to facilitate the journey of Dr. Krapf, who is about to proceed to Massowah as interpreter to the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Lord Stanley to inform you that his Lordship sent to you this day a telegraphic despatch in the following words:— See No. 419.

"Do all you can to facilitate journey to Massowah of Mr. Henry Dufton and Rev. M. Haussmann, who are about to proceed thither to join Abyssinian expedition with Dr. Krapf."

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 678.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 10th, 1867.

No. 674.

No. 677.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant and to state to you, in reply, that his Lordship has this day instructed the Acting Consul General in Egypt by telegraph to do all he can to facilitate the journey to Massowah of Mr. Henry Dufton and the Rev. Mr. Haussmann, who are about to accompany the Rev. Dr. Krapf to Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 679.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 10th October 1867.

No. 670.

With reference to my letter of the 9th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that passage may be reserved on board the "Serapis," for Lieutenant Nolan, R.A., and five Non-commissioned Officers, to accompany the mountain battery which is to be conveyed to Egypt for the service of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 680.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 10th October 1867.

No. 591.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that a copy of the letter and memorandum from Captain Cecil Johnson, which have been forwarded to this Office by Lord Stanley's Private Secretary, will be transmitted for the information of the Secretary of State for War, with reference to the question of obtaining ponies in Turkey and the neighbouring countries, for use in the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 681.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 10th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that the telegraph stores and signalling apparatus in preparation for the Abyssinian expedition, which will probably weigh about 25 tons, but in bulk will exceed 40 tons at the rate of 40 feet to the ton, are expected to be ready for shipment at the end of this month or beginning of November; and I am desired to inquire whether you will be able to make arrangements for their freight to Suez, and, if so, on what date they must be ready.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 682.

Telegram from the Governor General to the Secretary of State for India,
October 10th, 1867.

Send sufficient Staff Medical Officers for the British troops for the Abyssinian force. India can supply Medical Officers for the Native troops, but not spare Medical Staff for the British force.

No. 683.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 10th, 1867.

In reply to
No. 621.

Use your own discretion as regards the railway. State particulars respecting the first detachment which you say is about to sail.

No. 684.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir, India Office, 10th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he considers it advisable to wait for the opinion of the Government of Bombay, with whom Commodore Heath has been in communication on the subject, before taking any steps with reference to the formation of a Rocket Brigade for service in Abyssinia. No. 628.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 685.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 10th October 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence relating to the telegraphic, signalling, and photographic establishments for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Horse Guards, on the subject of the better organization of the detachments which have been detailed for the above duties.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 685.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Horse Guards, 10th October 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence relative to the organization of the telegraphic, signalling, and photographic establishments for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to request that you will acquaint the Secretary of State for War, that His Royal Highness is of opinion that it would be better for the interests of the public service, and the maintenance of discipline, &c., that the detachments of Royal Engineers now under orders for the duty in question should be amalgamated into a company of reduced strength, under the command of a Captain of the Corps (well acquainted with its financial system and interior economy), and two Lieutenants, instead of proceeding, as now intended, in a series of unconnected detachments, each commanded by a subaltern.

As the numbers now stand, they fall, in the aggregate, but little short of the strength of a company, although they are calculated for the bare requirements of each special service on which the men are to be employed, and make no provision whatever, in the shape of a reserve, to meet unavoidable casualties, or the extra duties and fatigues that are inevitable.

The following is a detail of the detachments as at present ordered, viz.:—

	Sergeants.	Corporals.	2d Corporals.	Lance Corporals.	Sappers.		
Photographers -	1	1	1	2	2	—	Under Lieut. St. John, who also takes charge of stores.
Telegraphists -	1	3	9	4	8	—	Under Lieut. Morgan.
Signallers -	1	1	1	1	6	—	Under Lieut. Puzey.
Officers' servants -	—	—	—	—	2	—	Servants to Lieutenants Morgan and Puzey.
Total -	3	5	11	7	18	44	
Probably required for sinking wells -	1	2	2	—	16	21	
	4	7	13	7	34	65	

The establishment of a Company of Royal Engineers consists at present of—

Colour Sergeant.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	2d Corporals.	Lance Corporals.	Buglers.	Sappers.	Total.
1	5	6	6	6	2	67	93

with 1 Captain and 2 Subalterns in addition.

The total strength of these separate detachments is, therefore, only 28 men short of the full establishment of a company, and yet no provision is made for casualties, extra duties, and fatigues, or for that mechanical aid which, on active service, is so often invaluable, and which the artificers of the corps are so well qualified to furnish.

His Royal Highness is, therefore, very desirous of recommending this proposal to favourable consideration, and, in the event of receiving Sir John Pakington's concurrence to the arrangement, he will be prepared to give instructions for the amalgamation of these detachments into a company of the under-mentioned proportions,—

Colour Sergeant.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	2d Corporals.	Lance Corporals.	Buglers.	Sappers.	Total.
1	5	7	13	7	2	48	83

These numbers will both provide a reserve to meet such casualties as may occur in the special detachments, and a small number of skilled artisans and miners, who will be available for extra duties and fatigues, or for the construction of mechanical appliances, and mining or blasting operations, especially in the highlands of Abyssinia.

Under this arrangement the detail of the company would be,—

	Colour Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	2d Corporals.	Lance Corporals.	Buglers.	Sappers.	Total.
Photographers -	—	1	1	1	2	—	2	7
Telegraphists -	—	1	3	9	4	—	8	25
Signallers -	—	1	1	1	1	—	6	10
Officers' servants -	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Sinking wells -	—	1	2	2	—	—	16	21
Artisans, miners, &c.	1	1	—	—	—	2	13	17
Total -	1	5	7	13	7	2	48	83

with 1 Captain and 2 Lieutenants in addition.

I have, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

No. 686.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 10th October 1867.

Enclosure
in No. 605.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris by Colonel Claremont, Military Attaché at that station, containing information respecting Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 687.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 10th October 1867.

In reply to Major-General Pears's letter of the 25th ultimo, on the subject of the proposed use by the troops employed in Abyssinia of the essence of water-cress, in the form of an anti-scorbutic; I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed memorandum on the subject, which has been drawn up by the Army Medical Department. No. 497.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 687.

Memorandum by the Army Medical Department.

Like the majority of plants comprising the natural order to which it belongs, the water-cress, in its fresh succulent state, has been long recognized as possessing anti-scorbutic properties; but this Department is not in possession of any information which would enable the Director-General to pronounce a definite opinion as to the value of the essence prepared by Messrs. Savory and Moore, or justify him in recommending the substitution of the essence for those well known anti-scorbutics in which both the public and the medical profession place well-grounded confidence.

With regard to that portion of Mr. Wyatt's letter, in which he suggests the shipment of a few gallons of the essence for the use of the sick on board the hospital ships, I beg to state that compliance is not now practicable, as the ships have already left for their destination; but, were they now in port, it would be for consideration how far the Director-General would be justified in recommending a medicine for experimental trial, under circumstances which call for the prompt and liberal supply of those elements of nutrition which should be at hand in these ships, and the effects of which can be relied on with implicit confidence.

I may add, that the cost of the essence of water-cress is 3s. per pound, or 24s. per gallon, so that, if supplied to an army, in substitution of anti-scorbutic articles of diet, the cost would be very considerable.

No. 688.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Horse Guards, 10th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 5th, and to my reply of the 8th instant, relative to the arrangements for despatching to Suez the two mountain batteries and rocket equipment for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to request you will acquaint the Secretary of State for India in Council that, as the second battery will be sent out by the Storekeeper at Woolwich, consigned to the Storekeeper at Suez, His Royal Highness would suggest, for Sir Stafford Northcote's consideration, whether it would not be desirable that Lieutenant Chapman, and the five Non-commissioned Officers who were to have accompanied it, should proceed in the "Serapis" (together with Lieutenant Nolan and the Non-commissioned Officers under his charge), and await the arrival of the battery at Suez; by which means Lieutenant Chapman will gain the experience of being present at the disembarkation of the first battery, and thus be able, with greater facility, to superintend the landing of the second when it reaches Suez. Nos. 618 and 656.

I have, &c.,

W. F. FORSTER.

No. 689.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 10th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that orders have been given for the issue of 10 stand of arms (Snider converted carbine), with accoutrements complete, to Lieutenant Nolan, R.A., who proceeds to Abyssinia in charge of the mountain batteries for that country, for 10 Non-commissioned Officers of the Depot Brigade, R.A., who form a portion of the expedition.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 690.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Consul in Corsica.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 10, 1867.

See No. 507.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to state to you that his Lordship communicated with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War relative to the offer made to you by a resident at Bastia to supply mules for the use of the projected expedition to Abyssinia; and I am to inform you that a sufficient number of mules has been purchased for the present, but that, if any further number should be required, the offer shall not be lost sight of.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 691.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 10, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, a letter from Messrs. Megrinoff and Poncel, merchants at Genoa, requesting to be allowed to join the projected expedition to Abyssinia, where they purpose founding commercial establishments.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 692.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 10, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Sir S. Northcote, a letter from Mr. Soutter, stating that he has information to communicate which he conceives will be of use to the projected Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 693.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Consul at Bilbao.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 10, 1867.

No. 484.

Lord Stanley referred to the Secretary of State for War your despatch of the 21st ultimo, enclosing one from Mr. Vice-Consul March on the subject of Spanish mountain artillery; and I am now directed by his Lordship to inform you that upon examination of the drawings submitted by Lieutenant March, it appears that the arrangements are substantially the same as those adopted in this country for the mountain train equipment to proceed to Abyssinia.

I am, however, to instruct you to thank Lieutenant March for his communication.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 694.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

In reply to
No. 639.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1867.

Thank Viceroy for proposal to send an Envoy to King Theodore to advise release of prisoners, which is approved by Her Majesty's Government. If prisoners are released, no further steps will be taken against the King.

No. 695.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Acting Consul-General in Egypt.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 10, 1867.

I have received your telegram of the 7th instant by which you inform me that No. 639.
an offer has been made by the Viceroy of Egypt to send a Mission to King Theodore with a view of counselling him to release the British subjects and others detained in captivity in Abyssinia rather than to incur the danger of an attack upon his territory by British forces.

I have now to instruct you to offer to the Viceroy the best thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the interest taken by His Highness in the prisoners, and you will state that Her Majesty's Government will gladly avail themselves of this opportunity of endeavouring to avert the necessity of a war, and will entertain the hope that the Viceroy's Mission may be successful.

You will, however, add that Her Majesty's Government do not deem it prudent to relax in the least in their preparations for an invasion of Abyssinia, although you will assure His Highness that if the prisoners are released, and are safely sent out of the country, no further steps will be taken by Her Majesty's Government against King Theodore.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 696.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 11, 1867.

I referred to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India your despatch of the No. 615.
3rd instant, and I have to convey to you the thanks of Her Majesty's Government, and to state to you that, in compliance with a request made by the India Office, I transmitted to you this day a telegraphic despatch in the following words:—

“Inquire further respecting the person residing in Switzerland mentioned in your despatch of the 3rd instant.”

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 697.

The Private Secretary of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Private Secretary of the Secretary of State for India.

My dear Sir, Foreign Office, October 11th, 1867.

Mr. Purday, who is a friend or relation of Mr. Stern, one of the captives in Abyssinia, called here to-day, and brought me the enclosed Abyssinian vocabulary. He said that he had had some little difficulty in obtaining copies, but that he had discovered that there were 500 in store at the “London Society for promoting Christianity amongst the Jews,” at 16, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Mr. Purday thought this information might be of use, and I accordingly send it on to you.

Yours truly,
T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 698.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, India Office, 11th October 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 9th instant, I am directed by the Secretary No. 670.
of State for India in Council to acquaint you that the Field Marshal Commanding in No. 638.
Chief is desirous that, in addition to Lieutenant Nolan and the five Non-commissioned Officers for whom a passage on board the “Serapis” was requested, the detachment (consisting of Lieutenant Chapman, R.A., and five Non-commissioned Officers) which

was to have proceeded to Egypt in charge of the second mountain battery, should also be conveyed on board the same vessel; and I have, therefore, to request that, if possible, passages may be reserved for both the Officers and the ten Non-commissioned Officers above mentioned.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 699.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

No. 557.

With reference to my letter of the 2d instant, addressed to the Quartermaster-General, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state that there is reason to think that the troop ship of the 21st of November will not enable the party of telegraphers, &c., to arrive at the scene of operations in Abyssinia so early as is desirable; and I am to request that Sir Stafford Northcote may be informed whether His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has any objection to the various detachments of Engineers which have been allotted for the several duties of telegraphing, signalling, photographing, and fixing the tube wells, being sent to Egypt by a suitable steam transport, which is required, and would be engaged, for the purpose of conveying the telegraph and other stores.

It is probable that one could be obtained which would be ready to start in about a fortnight, and I am desired to request that I may be favoured with an early reply.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 700.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Major J. U. CHAMPAIN, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

No. 549.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that you are authorized to purchase signalling apparatus for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, at a cost not exceeding 1,000*l*.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 701.

The Chief Clerk of the Transport Office to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 11th October 1867.

No. 681.

With reference to your letter of the 10th instant, I request that you will be pleased to inform me where the 40 tons of telegraph stores and signalling apparatus, for the Abyssinian expedition, are lying, and that you will favour me with an early reply.

I have, &c.,

W. WILLIS,
for Director of Transports.

No. 702.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant A. LE MESSURIER, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

No. 546.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, and to acquaint you, in reply, that instruc-

tions will be given to the Director-General of Stores to obtain three of the smaller size of Bastier's patent chain pumps, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition; and I have to request that you will take charge of the pumps, which, as well as the tube wells, will be forwarded to Egypt with the stores connected with the telegraph apparatus sent out under the care of Lieutenant St. John, R.E.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 703.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, and, in reply, to request that arrangements may be made with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, for increasing the stock of coal for Government purposes at Aden from 20,000 to 30,000 tons. No. 655.

2. With reference to the latter part of your letter, I am desired to state that no information has been received at this Office respecting the number, tonnage, and horse-power of the steamships which have been taken up at Bombay for the service of the expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 704.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, respecting the measures adopted by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to obtain a speedy communication by telegraph between Suez and Bombay; and I am desired to acquaint you, in reply, that a copy of the correspondence will be forwarded to the Government of Bombay for their information. No. 603.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 705.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, respecting the facilities granted by the Egyptian Government for the expedition to Abyssinia, and, in reply, I am to acquaint you that a copy of the paper will be forwarded for the information of the Government of Bombay. No. 516.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 706.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, forwarding a letter from Colonel Simmons, Director of the Royal Engineers Establishment at Chatham, containing proposals for the construction of a line of railway in Abyssinia.

2. From recent communications received from Bombay, it would seem that the Government of that country have had the subject under consideration, and are prepared to furnish both labour and materials from that country. At present, however, they entertain doubts of the expediency of incurring the heavy expense on that account, until the features of the country are better known, and Sir Stafford Northcote is therefore at present indisposed to sanction any expenditure in this country for the purpose.

3. The whole of the correspondence will, however, be forwarded for the consideration of the Government of Bombay.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 707.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a copy of a letter from Captain Cecil Johnson to Lord Stanley, together with a memorandum on the subject of the ponies which are used for the transport of merchandise in Servia, Bulgaria, and Turkey; and I am directed to suggest, for the consideration of Sir J. Pakington, whether it may not be desirable for one of the Officers employed under Colonel Kennedy to make further inquiries into the matter.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 708.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
October 11th, 1867.

Instead of the fuzes mentioned in our telegram of 23d September, please send to Aden overland 1,404 fuzes, time, E., and 702 fuzes, field, percussion, for G. Battery, proceeding to Abyssinia.

No. 709.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 11th October 1867.

In continuation of my letter of the 8th instant, reporting the progress made in the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed Memoranda showing the state and prospects of the mule business to the present date, and also the arrangements made for the transport of the mules for the same period.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 709.

Memorandum of Freight arrangements on this date, 10th October 1867.

Vessels which have sailed, and number of mules they can convey:—

	No.	
" Bolivar " - - -	132	
" Venetia " - - -	124 (?) 114	
" Paraná " - - -	260	
" Empress " - - -	101	
" Coumoundouros " - - -	188	
" Thomas Snowden " - - -	805 or, in three trips - - -	2,415
" Achilles " - - -	300 sailed to-day.	
" Bretagne " - - -	350 to sail on the 15th instant. } - -	1,270
" Touraine " - - -	310 " " 12th " }	
Brindisi, by contract - - -	310 " " 14th " }	
Malta, by transport from Alexandria	600 - - -	600
	300 - - -	300
Total in one trip - - -	2,975	Add three trips of Admiralty vessels 4,585

Freight has thus been provided for 4,585 mules, and a margin was left for freight to be procured locally in the Levant, or for the employment of the hired transports within the prescribed period. But a demand has been received from the India Office to extend the purchases to 8,000 mules, if they can be delivered in Egypt by the end of November. To accomplish this within the period named, it will be necessary to procure as many as possible of the additional 3,000 in Egypt and Syria, and probably some addition may be made to the limits at Gibraltar (1,500), and at Brindisi (600).

Of the Spanish mules (Gibraltar 1,500, Alicante 1,500, Valencia 500), total 3,500, there will be removed by the nine transports, in one trip each, 2,075, and 900 will be removed by local arrangements from Brindisi and Malta.

The Admiralty vessels in two trips more to Spanish ports (if they can complete them within the three months for which they are engaged) can carry 1,610 more, making, as detailed above, 4,585 in all; and 3,415 (to complete 8,000) will still have to be provided (in Italy and the Levant if possible), and, for such portion as may not be locally procurable in Egypt, or which cannot be forwarded by local freight from the Syrian ports, additional transport may be provided by extending the period of employment of the Admiralty steamers, or of the hired freight ships, which are cheaper. It will be more economical, however, and better in many respects to purchase locally in Egypt, and to obtain local transport in the Levant and in Italy, employing the Admiralty vessels or freight ships on the transport of the Spanish mules.

Since the above was written, two communications have been received from Colonel Kennedy, by telegraph, of 8th and 9th instant, from which it would appear that he has secured locally, to be delivered in Egypt by the contractors, 1,950 mules, out of the 3,415 required, and the balance (1,465) may no doubt be made up in the Levant, particularly if the India Government will accept some pack-horses.

Memorandum on the state and prospects of the Mule business, 10th October 1867.

	In hand.	Promised or Contracted for.
Malta - - -	300	— 100 more if required.
Gibraltar - - -	1,000	500 500 " "
Alicante - - -	900	700 —
Valencia - - -	360	140 —
Brindisi - - -	320	280 —
Alexandria - - -	50	— 1,700
Smyrna - - -	—	— { 500 at 22l. 10s.
Beyrout - - -	50	500 — { 250 at 26l. 10s. delivered in Egypt.
Aleppo and Scanderoon - - -	—	— — no reports.
In hand - - -	2,980	—
Contracted for - - -	—	2,770 2,300 promised, if required.

Or a total of 5,750 in hand or contracted for; and of 8,050 with the 2,300 promised, of which 1,700 will be contracted for in the Levant, if Colonel Kennedy's telegrams of 8th and 9th instant have been rightly interpreted; the remaining 550 had better be obtained in the Levant than at Gibraltar or Malta, and it is probable that 500 may have been contracted for at Aleppo, though we are without any report yet from that party.

No. 710.

Captain BEAUMONT, R.E., to the Secretary of State for War.

Dear Sir John Pakington,

71, Champs Elysées, October 11th, 1867.

With reference to the interview you were good enough to afford me at Paris, I beg to enclose you a letter I have received from Brigadier-General Lefroy.

Believe me, &c.,

FRED. BEAUMONT.

Enclosure in No. 710.

The President of the Ordnance Select Committee to Captain BEAUMONT.

My dear Beaumont,

Ordnance Select Committee, October 7th, 1867.

Understanding you to propose nothing more than captive balloons, to ascend a few hundred feet and remain attached to the spot, I agree with you, that the Abyssinian expedition offers a good opportunity for trying them, and that circumstances may easily arise in which the power of getting such a survey of the country, above forests and accidents of ground, would be invaluable. Wherever you would send a man to the mast-head, if you had a mast-head, there a balloon is worth ten times as much. I have often thought that for naval blockades, and surveys, and many other purposes of discovery, they would be of great use. Of course, one knows that in countries clothed with forests the great difficulty is to distinguish, or at least identify, what is spread under your eyes; but here we shall have two or more columns moving independently, with immense difficulties of communication. Balloons ascending at night would let each know the bearing and perhaps the distance of the other; and, if the expedition reaches Magdala or Debra Tabor, they might shorten immensely operations, by enabling the places to be reconnoitred. In fact, I think these things an army in the field should have at command.

Faithfully yours,

J. H. LEFROY.

No. 711.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 11th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, copy of a letter from Major G. Russell, proposing for use in the Abyssinian expedition an improved form of camp hospital with a litter, and to request that Sir Stafford Northcote may be favoured with such information as may be available in the War Office respecting the merits of this invention; and with copies of any report that may have been made regarding it in the Military or Medical Departments.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 712.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
October 11th, 1867.

Pray send immediately the 30 boxes for treatment of fractures and reduction of dislocations, included in indent forwarded with Despatch of the 26th March last, to the care of the storekeeper or other available officer at Suez, to be forwarded to Massowah, care of Commissariat Officer there.

No. 713.

The Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 11th October 1867.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the

accompanying copy of a letter from the President of the Royal Geographical Society, recommending the appointment of Mr. Clements R. Markham, of the India Office, to be geographer attached to the Abyssinian expedition.

Their Lordships desire me to state that they approve of Mr. Markham's appointment, and request to be informed as to the views of Sir Stafford Northcote, with regard to the remuneration to be assigned to him; and I am to submit that, as the geographical information regarding Abyssinia, which it is the object of his appointment to obtain, may be important as regards the interests of India as well as Europe, the India Department may not object to share the expense with the Imperial Government.

I am, &c.,
GEO. A. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 713.

The President of the Royal Geographical Society to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Geological Survey of Great Britain,
6th October 1867.

Sir,

Having been informed that, in consequence of my recommendation, Sir Stafford Northcote has consented that Mr. Clements R. Markham, of the India Office (who is the Senior Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society), shall be appointed the geographer attached to the Abyssinian expedition, I venture to hope that the appointment will be approved by the Lords of the Treasury, and that their Lordships will make the requisite arrangements.

I remain, &c.,
ROD. I. MURCHISON,
President, Royal Geographical Society.

No. 714.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 12th October 1867.

I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from Colonel Blane, Military Attaché at St. Petersburg, together with a telegram from that Officer, relative to the purchase of Cossack horses for service with the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 714.

Colonel BLANE to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

St. Petersburg, 7th October 1867.

In obedience to the instructions contained in your telegram received on Saturday last the 5th instant, I went at once to Count Heyden, Chief of the Staff, to request that he would place me in communication with General Pitapoff.

Count Heyden kindly offered to telegraph at once to General Petapoff, whereby an immediate answer would be ensured.

That answer was received from Kozloff only this morning, and I immediately telegraphed its purport to you. No. 640.

The wording of the telegram might lead to the conclusion that the price, 80 roubles, about 11*l.*, had reference to the whole 3,000 horses, whereas I have reason to think that the price named referred only to the 1,500 three-year-olds.

Unbroken horses of this age would not be suitable for the purpose required, whereas cast horses of regiments would probably run from 6 to 10 years old, would be docile, hardy animals, accustomed to soldiers, and inured to great variations of climate.

From inquiries I have subsequently made, I am inclined to believe that good serviceable cast horses of regiments might be purchased at about 30 or 40 roubles, say from 5*l.* to 7*l.*

I shall telegraph to you immediately on receipt of General Petapoff's next communication as to the result of his inquiries regarding transport to Odessa or Alexandria.

In order to save time, I address this direct to you, but I shall forward a copy of this letter to Sir Andrew Buchanan, for the information of Lord Stanley.

Awaiting your further instructions,

I have, &c.,
ROBERT BLANE.

Enclosure 2 in No. 714.

Telegram from Colonel BLANE to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards, received October 12th, 1867.

Small steamer, to carry about 200 horses, can be sent to Tanef; freight to Alexandria, about 8*l.* per horse; no steamers fitted as horse transport ready at Odessa; but fittings soon completed.

No. 715.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 12th October 1867.

No. 609.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, forwarding "a copy of a letter from the Swedish "Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, requesting that a young Swedish professor of "mineralogy and geology may be allowed to accompany the British expedition to "Abyssinia;" and, in reply, I am instructed to request you will inform Lord Stanley, that Sir Stafford Northcote considers it most desirable, under the special and peculiar circumstances attending the contemplated operations of the force in Abyssinia, to limit it as much as possible to the required number of combatants.

2. The reports in the newspapers to which M. Beckfriis refers are not correct. Permission has not been granted to any French men of science to accompany the expedition as amateurs, nor is it intended to give such permission either to foreigners or to British subjects.

3. Sir Stafford Northcote believes that the interests of science will have been sufficiently provided for by the appointments that have been already made, with this view, in this country and in India; and he regrets much that a regard to the interests of the public service compels him to decline to accede to the recommendation of M. Beckfriis on behalf of his countryman.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 716.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 12th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request you will have the goodness to furnish him with information regarding the adaptability of Austin's military huts, hospitals, and stables for service.

2. A copy of a letter from Mr. Austin is enclosed, in which he states that his models have been approved at the Horse Guards, and are now lying there.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 717.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 12th October 1867.

No. 594.

In compliance with Major-General Pears's letter of the 4th instant, requesting to be furnished with a complete nominal list of the Medical and Purveying Departments, who have proceeded to the East in the hospital ships connected with the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed nominal lists of the Officers in question.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 717.

LIST of Medical Officers who have proceeded to the East in the Three Hospitals Ships connected with the Abyssinian Expedition.

Rank.	Name.	Vessel.
Staff Surgeon - - -	Sampson Roch - - -	} "Golden Fleece."
Staff Assistant Surgeon - - -	R. P. Murphy - - -	
Staff Surgeon - - -	E. P. M. Woodward - - -	} "Mauritius."
Staff Assistant Surgeon - - -	E. J. Fairland - - -	
Staff Surgeon - - -	J. S. Chartres - - -	} "Queen of the South."
Staff Assistant Surgeon - - -	W. J. Wheeler - - -	

Enclosure 2 in No. 717.

LIST of Officers of the Purveyor's Department who have proceeded to the East in the Three Hospitals Ships connected with the Abyssinian Expedition.

Rank.	Name.	Vessel.
Assistant Purveyor, with rank of } Subaltern - - - - -	J. S. Young - - -	"Golden Fleece."
Ditto, ditto - - - - -	J. D. Thwaites - - -	"Mauritius."
Ditto, ditto - - - - -	M. S. J. Woollett - - -	"Queen of the South."

No. 718.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
12th October 1867.

Sir,

I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt has reported that, at the suggestion of the Deputy Quartermaster-General, arrangements have been made for one of the smaller rooms appropriated to that Officer in the British Transport Office at Alexandria, to be lent to Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., as a temporary office.

I am, &c.,
W. R. MENDES.

No. 719.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 12th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, transmitting extract of a letter from No. 659. Colonel Clark Kennedy, at Alexandria, reporting operations in connexion with the provision of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, and, in reply to the several inquiries contained in the 2d and 3d paragraphs, to state that Sir Stafford Northcote is of opinion that it is not desirable that the operations of the War Department, in providing mules for the Abyssinian expedition, should be extended beyond Suez, as it is understood that all transactions on the Indian side of the Isthmus would be made by the Government of Bombay. Sir Stafford Northcote is further of opinion that the engage-

ment of muleteers for service in Abyssinia should rest entirely with the agents despatched to that country by the Government of Bombay, who will be in possession of the views and intentions of that Government upon the subject.

2. With regard to the pack-horses noticed in the extract from Colonel Kennedy's letter of the 30th ultimo, forwarded therewith, Sir Stafford Northcote is of opinion that serviceable animals of this description, if procured at a price no greater than that of mules, might, with advantage, be supplied in lieu of an equal number of mules, within the limits already authorized.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 720.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Dr. BEKE.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 12, 1867.

No. 672.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter published by you in the "Morning Herald" newspaper, respecting Mr. Rassam's mission to Abyssinia.

I am to add that your letter will be printed in the next collection of papers respecting Abyssinia that may be laid by Lord Stanley before Parliament.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 721.

The Rev. Dr. KRAPF to the Assistant Political Secretary, India Office.

Most honoured Sir,

Kornthal, near Stuttgart,
12th October 1867.

No. 667.

I beg leave to inform you that I have received the letters of credential for myself and Mr. Haussmann, addressed by Her Majesty's Government to His Excellency Sir R. Napier, Commander-in-Chief.

We shall not fail delivering these letters, together with the enclosed packet, immediately on our arrival at Massowah, to His Excellency, or, in his absence, to the Officer in command.

Whilst most respectfully thanking Her Majesty's Government for all kindness and condescension hitherto experienced, I would take this opportunity of recommending myself and my associate to their kind consideration for the future.

With my ardent wish that the object of Her Majesty's force in Abyssinia may speedily and most satisfactorily be obtained, and with profound esteem,

I remain, &c.,
L. KRAPF.

No. 722.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Berne to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 13.)

My Lord,

Berne, October 10, 1867.

No. 615.

With reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant I have the honour to submit to your Lordship the result of my examination of Michael Beschir, an Abyssinian, who has been lately residing at Geneva.

He is a native of the village of Limjur, near Lake Tzana, at no very great distance from Gondar. He states that he left his country in the year 1847, being then 12½ years

old, in a gang of slaves bound for Egypt. At Assuan he was liberated by Count Revedini, a Venetian, who took him to Europe. A year later he was sent back to Egypt to be educated in a college at Alexandria, where he resided for upwards of two years. He has since lived in Europe, and is now 32 years of age.

Dr. Sprenger, late Examiner of the College of Fort William, who is probably known to your Lordship as an eminent Orientalist, was good enough to assist me in my examination, and has addressed a letter to me on the subject, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose.

Although I have not been honoured by your Lordship's instructions in answer to my previous despatch on this subject, I have thought it right to report the further steps I have taken. I should add that the officers of the Camp d'Instruction at Geneva, on whom Michael Beschir has lately been attending, give him the very highest character. He certainly has singular qualifications for the post of interpreter, speaking Arabic, Italian, and French, and to some extent English and German.

I have, &c.,
HORACE RUMBOLD.

Enclosure in No. 722.

Dr. SPRENGER to Mr. RUMBOLD.

My dear Sir,

Wabern, near Berne, October 9th, 1867.

Michael Beschir made in yesterday's interview, on the whole, a very favourable impression upon me. His open countenance, which is of the genuine Abyssinian type, and his frankness, rarely met with in an Oriental, inspire confidence. His attainments in European languages you are better able to appreciate than I. He speaks Arabic with considerable fluency, and might for this language serve as an interpreter; he does, however, not know to write this language. The result of your cross-examination leaves no doubt that he was 12 years of age when he was carried away from his country; his knowledge of localities must, therefore, of necessity be very limited. As far as I could ascertain, he has almost completely forgotten his native tongue; and, though a Christian, he was neither able to repeat the Lord's prayer in Abyssinian, nor to translate it from the Arabic into that language. Whether if brought back to his native country he would at once recover the language of his childhood is a question which I cannot venture to answer. It appears to me he might be useful to an Officer on detached duty. His appearance would inspire his countrymen with confidence, and I think he would make himself intelligible to them.

Believe me, &c.,
A. SPRENGER.

No. 723.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 14th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, upon the requisition of

* Hospital Ships "Mauritius," "Golden Fleece," "Queen of the South,"— Abyssinia expedition.	1-bar gold good-conduct badges	- 3	the Officer commanding the Army Hospital Corps, Netley, orders have been given for the issue of the clothing, as per margin.*
	2-bar " " "	- 4	
	1-bar worsted " "	- 14	
	2-bar " " "	- 15	
Sergeant-Majors' frock coats	3-bar " " "	- 3	
Colour Sergeants' "	Staff Sergeants' serge trousers	- 2	
Sergeants' "	Sergeants' "	- 9	
Rank and file "	Rank and file "	- 75	
Lance Sergeants' gold chevrons	Cotton socks	- pairs 183	
2d Corporals' "	Boots	- " 86	

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 724.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 14th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, in order to enable the batteries accompanying the Abyssinian expedition to carry with them a proportion of the double shells provided for special use against entrenchments, it is found necessary that a supply of 24 boxes, of a particular pattern, should be manufactured and sent out with the other stores; and I am, therefore, to request that you will move Sir Stafford Northcote to signify his concurrence in the provision of the same, and direct the transmission of a demand by the India Store Department.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 725.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 14th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of Major-General Pears's letter of the 1st instant, stating the number of Staff Medical Officers required for duty with the British force about to proceed to Abyssinia; and, in reply, I am to transmit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Horse Guards, with its enclosures from the Army Medical Department, on the subject.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 725.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 8th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 2d instant, and its enclosures from the India Office, stating the number (as per margin*) of Staff Medical Officers required (from this country) for duty with the British force about to proceed to Abyssinia, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Army Medical Department, forwarding a list of the Medical Officers selected for the service in question, and to request that, in laying the same before the Secretary of State for War, you will acquaint Sir John Pakington that, for the reasons urged by the Director General, His Royal Highness is desirous of recommending for favourable consideration the arrangement proposed for appointing Deputy Inspector-General Dr. S. Currie (at present in Bombay) to the post of Principal Medical Officer of the expedition.

I have, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

Enclosure 2 in No. 725.

The Secretary of the Army Medical Department to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

Army Medical Department,
8th October 1867.

I am instructed by the Director General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, enclosing a copy of a communication from the India Office, requesting an augmentation of the Medical Staff of Her Majesty's British Forces for duty with the Abyssinian expedition; and, in reply, I beg to forward, for the approval of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, a list of the Medical Officers selected for this duty, with their respective addresses. I

beg to add that, as the Director General considers Deputy Inspector-General Dr. S. Currie, at present in Bombay, eminently qualified for the medical supervision of such an expedition, he begs earnestly to press upon the consideration of His Royal Highness the advisability of telegraphing to the authorities in Bombay a strong recommendation in favour of this nomination.

Should Dr. Currie be selected for this duty, Dr. Foss, 2d Foot, who has been recommended for promotion, and who is now serving at Aden, will be available for duty on the Staff of Her Majesty's troops in Bombay, or, if required, with the force in the field, *vice* Dr. Currie, especially employed in Abyssinia. The Director General is aware that the Staff appointments are at the disposal of the authorities in Bombay, but he is so satisfied of Dr. Currie's peculiar fitness for such a post, that he trusts the importance to the army of having a thoroughly efficient Principal Medical Officer will be accepted by His Royal Highness as a sufficient justification for bringing the subject prominently to his notice.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MASSY,
Deputy Inspector-General.

Enclosure 3 in No. 725.

LIST of Staff Medical Officers who have been selected for Service in Abyssinia.

Rank.	Name.	Present Station.	Passage required.
Deputy Inspector-General	H. C. Foss	Aden, with 2d Foot	—
Staff Surgeon-Major	T. Guy	England	1
Ditto	G. C. Meikleham	Malta	—
Ditto	W. Deeble	England	1
Staff Surgeon	A. Temple	England	1
Ditto	C. D. Madden	Ditto	1
			and 1 for male servant.
Ditto	R. Webb	Ditto	1
Ditto	S. H. Dickerson	Gibraltar, with Royal Artillery.	—
Staff Assistant Surgeon	W. Jay	England	1
Ditto	J. Collins	Ditto	1
Ditto	H. W. Deolin	Ditto	1
Ditto	R. Gillespie	Ditto	1
Ditto	J. Martin	Ditto	1
Ditto	W. C. Robinson	Ditto	1
Ditto	K. Macard	Ditto	1
Ditto	E. Townsend	Ditto	1

No. 726.

The Indian Government Agent at Alexandria to the Assistant Under Secretary of State for India (received October 14th, 1867).

Sir,

Alexandria, 4th October 1867.

The first consignment of treasure (stated in the margin*) from Trieste was sent on from Suez by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer on 27th last month. The

* First consignment, 50 barrels, containing 2,000 dollars each.

Second " 90 " " " " "

second consignment will be forwarded from Suez about 5th or 6th instant, with the mails.

The receipts from Aden will be duly sent to you as they come to hand.

I am, &c.,
H. JOHNSON.

No. 727.

The Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Bank of England, 14th October 1867.

No. 662. Referring to my letter of the 9th instant, I am now directed to forward you, for
No. 588. the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, three Maria Theresa dollars, specimens of those which are being transmitted to Egypt, in accordance with your instructions of the 4th instant.

I am, &c.,

F. MAY,

Deputy Chief Cashier.

No. 728.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 14th October 1867.

No. 661. I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the
No. 684. receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that on the 10th instant the Secretary of the Admiralty was informed that, in the opinion of Sir Stafford Northcote, it was advisable to wait for the report of the Bombay Government, with whom Commodore Heath has been in communication on the subject, before taking any steps with reference to the formation of a rocket brigade for service in Abyssinia.

2. With reference to the marginal note on your letter, I am desired to add that the requisition for 100 Naval short Snider Rifles, which was made by the Director General of Stores on the 20th of August, had no connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,

Military Secretary.

No. 729.

The Resident at Aden to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received October 14th, 1867.)

Right Honourable Sir,

Aden, September 28th, 1867.

No. 424. According to instructions received from you this day by telegram, dated London, 19th September, I have the honour to return herewith the letter addressed to King Theodore mentioned in your message.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER, Lieutenant-Colonel,

Resident at Aden.

No. 730.

The Ambassador at St. Petersburg to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 14.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 9, 1867.

Enclosure 1 in No. 714. I have the honour to forward a letter from Colonel Blanc, Military Attaché, giving cover to a letter addressed by him to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards, in reply to a telegram directing him to make inquiries relative to the purchase of Cossack horses as bât horses for the use of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.

ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Enclosure in No. 730.

Colonel BLANE to Sir A. BUCHANAN.

Sir,

St. Petersburg, October 7, 1867.

I have the honour to enclose, for the information of Lord Stanley, copy of a letter addressed by me to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards, in consequence of a telegram directing me to make inquiries relative to a proposed purchase of Cossack horses as bât horses for the purposes of the Abyssinian expedition. Enclosure 1 in No. 714.

I have, &c.,
ROB. BLANE.

No. 731.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 14th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from Mr. Browne, who offers to ship mules from the Dardanelles to Alexandria at a cost of from 18% to 20%. Mr. Browne has been informed that this subject rests with the War Office.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 732.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 14th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the telegraph stores and signalling apparatus for the Abyssinian expedition will be all delivered into and packed at the India Store Depot, Belvedere Road. No. 701.

2. I am desired to add that, since my letter of the 10th, a communication has been made to the Horse Guards on the subject of the telegraph officers and stores, and I have to request that no arrangements may be made for taking up freight for them, pending the receipt of a further letter from me with reference thereto. No. 679.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 733.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 14th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that a passage has been engaged on board Her Majesty's ship "Serapis" for both Lieutenants Nolan and Chapman, Royal Artillery, and the ten Non-commissioned Officers who are to proceed to Abyssinia with the mountain batteries. No. 688.

2. With regard to your observation that "the second battery will be sent out by the storekeeper at Woolwich, consigned to the storekeeper at Suez," I am desired to acquaint you that it has been arranged that the second battery and equipment shall be delivered by the Principal Superintendent of Stores at Woolwich to the Director

General of Stores of this Office, by whom they will be placed on board a vessel for conveyance to Alexandria, and consigned to the Transport Officer at Suez.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 734.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 14th October 1867.

No. 664.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward to you a copy of a letter which has been received from Staff Assistant Surgeon Alexander Neill, who states that, having resided for several months in Abyssinia, prior to his entering Her Majesty's Army, he has gained a knowledge of the general features and physical character of the country, and an intimate acquaintance with the peculiar and special types of disease incidental to its climate, and is thereby enabled to make many suggestions that may prove useful in preserving the health of the troops; and I am desired to request that Sir Stafford Northcote may be favoured with the opinion of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, as to the desirability of circulating copies of the letter to the Medical and Commanding Officers of the regiments composing the force.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 735.

Mr. T. PLOWDEN to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

80, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, October 14, 1867.

No. 569.

With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, I beg leave to submit the draft of the letter I propose to send to the Emperor Theodorus, subject to Lord Stanley's approval.

I have endeavoured to make the communication a strictly private one; and if I have departed from this resolution in the concluding sentence, it is under the conviction that unless some such opening is given no letter would have any effect whatever.

I am, &c.,

TREVOR PLOWDEN.

Enclosure in No. 735.

Mr. T. PLOWDEN to King THEODORE.

May it please your Majesty,

I, the elder brother of the late Walter Plowden, respectfully approach your Majesty, emboldened to do this by the recollection of your Majesty's great kindness to him, and of his respect and esteem for your Majesty.

Your Majesty knows that it was always my brother's object to establish friendship between your Majesty and Queen Victoria, and by the blessing of God he succeeded. So long as he lived there was friendship and mutual goodwill, which the Embassy your Majesty proposed to send would doubtless have confirmed and strengthened. At this juncture it pleased God to take my brother from this world. Alas! what disastrous consequences ensued! Your Majesty, displeased with his

successor, Consul Cameron, imprisoned him, and with him many other British subjects, and thus the friendship which my brother so long and so earnestly laboured to establish was rudely shaken, and now threatens to be entirely destroyed

I, the brother of Walter Plowden, seeing this unhappy state of things, knowing how my brother honoured and respected your Majesty, and how this disturbance of old friendship would have grieved his heart, and myself grateful for your Majesty's numerous kindnesses to him, desire to do what he would have done had he been alive, to come forward as a friend to your Majesty, and in order to bring about a renewal of friendship between your Majesty and Queen Victoria.

My brother never deceived your Majesty, neither will I. Therefore I write and ask, why this difference? Has Consul Cameron displeased your Majesty by going to Bogos to the Turks? If so, it was from inexperience, he being new to the country and to the office; for your Majesty knows well, as my brother has often told you, that Queen Victoria does not and would not encourage or support Turks against your Majesty. If, therefore, it is for this error Consul Cameron has been imprisoned for four (?) years, the punishment is enough. To keep him longer in confinement, and with him the other British subjects, who have not offended, is unworthy of a great King. Their detention in captivity is injurious to your Majesty's reputation for justice, and an indignity to Queen Victoria. While this continues, how can there be friendship?

I write to your Majesty, as my brother would have done, as a friend and well-wisher, with the words of truth and sincerity, of my own free will, and apart from my Government, to increase your fame, and to restore friendship and goodwill between the countries of England and Abyssinia.

I therefore pray your Majesty to remember your great name, and your reputation for justice and magnanimity, to remember also my brother, and the things he did for you, and his unhappy death, and to remember that friendship is better than enmity.

And for all these considerations I pray your Majesty to release Consul Cameron and the other captives, and to send them with all honour to Massowah to Colonel Merewether, the Governor of Aden. Then will Queen Victoria understand that you desire friendship, not enmity. Then will she give friendship in return, and all will be as before in my brother's time. At the same time your Majesty can communicate your wishes to Colonel Merewether as to the future intercourse between the two countries.

No. 736.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India (received
October 14th, 1867.)

No. 70, Military.

Right Honourable Sir, Bombay Castle, 14th September 1867.

With reference to our Despatch, No. 63, of 24th August last, giving reply, so No. 447. far as was in our power, to the questions regarding the Abyssinian expedition put in your Despatch, No. 86, of 17th July, we have now the honour to submit the accom- No. 5. panying further correspondence.

We have, &c.,

W. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

R. NAPIER.

B. H. ELLIS.

S. MANSFIELD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 736.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
August 25th, 1867.

See Enclosure 10 in No. 572.

Enclosure 2 in No. 736.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

Poona, 13th September 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th August, conveying Enclosure 10 the views and suggestions of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council on various in No. 572. matters relative to the projected expedition to Abyssinia.

X x 4

2. I have the honour to submit the accompanying Minutes. I had also the honour on the 8th instant to send a telegram as follows:—

“ 8th. The Government and Sir R. Napier see serious objection to dividing force into Bengal and Bombay Divisions. Conclusion is, to ask Government of India for two regiments Cavalry, one Punjaub Pioneers, one mountain train complete, one mortar battery with elephants, two thousand coolies organized and officered, and the staff of a brigade; also for Telegraph Establishment and material. Beside these for service, one Bengal regiment to relieve Bombay regiment at Mehidpoor and Augur. Madras Government to be asked for four companies Sappers for service, and for four regiments Infantry and one Cavalry to relieve Bombay troops. The 4th, 26th, 33d, 45th British Regiments to go to Abyssinia. For this, Government of India requested to send 91st as soon as possible, to make other arrangements for station to which 26th was destined, and Madras Government to be asked to make other arrangements in place of 45th. Generals Staveley and Malcolm named for Divisions. All this explained fully by post.”

This message and the Minutes now sent afford reply to nearly every part of your letter; but I am desired to notice the several points in succession.

3. The second paragraph of your letter proposes the constitution of the force in two divisions, one to be furnished from Bengal and one from Bombay. The first part of Sir Robert Napier's Minute of the 5th instant states the convenience of having the Native regiments of one army, and the inconvenient jealousies which would arise between the troops of the two Presidencies, if the force should be constituted as proposed. The latter part of His Excellency the Governor's Minute of the 8th instant points out that a large expenditure in taking up tonnage and provision of stores will, under the present arrangements, take place at Calcutta, and so obtain, in considerable measure, the incidental advantages expected to attend the despatch from Calcutta of the troops offered by the Government of India.

4. The same paragraph of your letter notices the impossibility of Bombay supplying so large a force, without drawing largely from the other Presidencies for troops to take the place of Bombay troops. I am desired, therefore, to explain the extent to which this will be necessary.

5. His Excellency Sir Robert Napier, in a Memorandum dated the 17th August, wrote as follows:—

“ There is very great advantage in employing regiments which are near the coast of Bombay, as they can be warned and prepared in every particular for foreign service.

“ For this reason, I propose to select the 33d, 4th King's Own, 26th, and 45th Regiments. The regiments are in good health, complete, and ready at hand. The time of Indian service of the 4th and 33d is nearly expired, and they can go on to England when the campaign is concluded.

“ It has been suggested to employ the relieved regiments that are going to England, but embarrassments of every kind beset the measure. We have not orders to act, merely to prepare; should the expedition take place, we require to have the regiments collected at Bombay, and ready to move the moment our preparations at the port of disembarkation are ready, but we, as far as we know, cannot land them on the coast of Abyssinia until our preparations are fully completed, as the delay there, on the coast, might lead to sickness and a host of evils. The objections to their landing and waiting at Aden are quite as serious.

“ Their food would have to be exported there; there is no room for them to encamp, and no shelter; the climate and tedium of any delay there would be sure to cause sickness.

“ If we interfere with the regular course laid down for the overland transport of troops by taking away the regiments, great expense will be needlessly incurred on both sides of Egypt, and thus nothing will be gained. By selecting regiments in this Presidency near the coast, all difficulties vanish.

“ The only arrangements with other Presidencies that are necessary are, to request the Government of Bengal to send the 91st Regiment, which is destined for Bombay, to this Presidency, if possible by the 15th or 20th of October. This might easily be done by sea.

“ To request the Madras Government to dispense with the services of the 45th Regiment during the campaign, making some other arrangements.

“ To request the Bengal Government to make some other provision for the station to which the 26th Regiment was destined.

“ The 109th, on its way to Mooltan; could leave a detachment of three companies to relieve the 33d at Kurrachee as a temporary arrangement.

“ The 95th could relieve, by a wing at each place, the 26th from Belgaum and the 4th King's Own from Bombay.

“ No other arrangements would be necessary.

“ The 22d and 23d Regiments in due time would supply the places of the 45th and 26th.

“ On the return of the 45th and 26th they could revert to their original destinations; the 33d and 4th King's Own might go home, if Her Majesty's Government thought proper.”

6. The foregoing Memorandum shows the extent to which this Government looks to the other Presidencies for reliefs of British troops.

As regards Native troops, it is proposed to obtain four Native Infantry regiments from Madras to garrison Dharwar, Bombay, Surat, and Kurrachee, and one from your Presidency to occupy Mehidpoor and Augur, thus freeing five Bombay regiments; whilst Kolapoor, Poona, Ahmedabad, and Dhoolia, Malligam, and Tannah (which three latter places have two regiments amongst them), will spare four regiments without relief, by means of additions to the police and by the detachment of two companies of the Native regiment at Baroda to Ahmedabad.

7. The 7th paragraph of your letter proposes to provide for the withdrawal of a regiment of Sind Horse by additions to the strength of the remaining regiments, and this was at first accepted by Sir Robert Napier in his Minute of the 5th. But His Excellency in Council considers that there is peculiar inconvenience in a temporary increase of strength of this nature in Silladar Cavalry Regiments, because, whenever reduction becomes necessary, it can only be effected by means of large compensation for the forfeited assamees, and even then is a source of great dissatisfaction. His Excellency in Council has, therefore, determined to forego the aid which such temporary additions would give, and to ask for one Cavalry regiment from Madras to replace the Poona Horse at Seroor, and to allow that regiment to move to the Sind frontier.

8. With respect to the modifications of the several arms of the force, suggested in the 3d to the 9th paragraphs of your letter, I am desired to refer to Sir Robert Napier's Minute for his reasons for preferring that the mortar battery should be organized independently; for desiring to take the squadron of British Cavalry, notwithstanding the counter considerations offered; and for retaining nine regiments of Native Infantry at the ordinary strength, instead of eight made up to the same gross number by increase of regimental strength.

9. In connexion with this part of the subject, I am to draw attention to the suggestion by His Excellency the Governor, that the extra mountain train from England might possibly enable Sir Robert Napier to dispense with the need for a battery of Horse Artillery, a point which Sir Robert Napier has reserved for after-consideration.

10. The 10th paragraph of your letter inquires what staff is desired from Bengal. As already intimated by telegram, His Excellency in Council will be glad to receive the staff of a brigade; and, though the Head Quarter's Staff will be organized here, yet steps have already been taken to obtain a large portion of Commissariat Staff from Madras and Bengal, if such Officers can be spared; and His Excellency in Council intends asking the Madras Government to furnish a portion of the Engineer Staff.

11. As respects supplies noticed in the 11th paragraph of your letter, six months' supply is desired in the first instance; but, as the Bombay Commissariat Department will depend largely upon the aid of the Commissariat Department at Calcutta, the extent of the demands upon your Presidency will perhaps be best determined by communication between the heads of those Departments.

12. The 12th paragraph of your letter inquires the port of debarkation and the time the Bengal troops should arrive. A reconnoitring party, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether, and accompanied by the Quartermaster-General and two Officers of his Department, by three Engineer Officers, two Commissariat Officers, and two Medical Officers, together with Marine Officers for harbour survey, port arrangements, and other nautical purposes, with a small detachment of Light Cavalry and Native Infantry, will sail about the 15th instant, to select the port of debarkation. A copy of the formal instructions to the party shall be sent so soon as these are drawn; but their purport will be the considerations to guide the selection of the port, and orders to make a definitive selection, and thereupon to report the same to Suez, Aden, and Bombay, and to proceed with all practicable preparations for the troops and the baggage animals which will shortly follow.

About three weeks after the departure of the party, a body of Sappers with some Native troops will follow to assist in the preparations. It is hoped that the First Division of the main force will follow in November; and the Quartermaster-General has been instructed to communicate with the Quartermaster-General of the Bengal Army as to the exact time and arrangements for the Bengal troops joining the force.

13. The 13th paragraph of your letter inquires what equipments are needed from your Presidency; whether ships and stores available at Calcutta should be taken up and sent round to Bombay; and whether flat-bottomed boats and other means for debarkation can be provided in Bombay. As respects equipments, the Heads of Departments of the two Presidencies will perhaps be best able to make the requisite arrangements amongst themselves; and I have had the honour of already telegraphing to your Office at Calcutta to arrange for taking up tonnage according to the needs of the Commissariat and the directions of the Bombay Superintendent of Marine, who is charged with the entire provision of the sea transport. The Superintendent of Marine will be able to provide lighters and other means of debarkation; but to supplement the supply from this source, communications have been addressed to the Consul at Suez, where His Excellency in Council has reason to believe that a number of iron lighters are available. Steam tugs will be sent to assist in landing men and stores, as soon as definite information with reference to the port of debarkation shall have been received.

14. With respect to the 14th paragraph, I am directed to acknowledge, with thanks, the offer of the services of the steamer "Feroze;" and the Superintendent of Marine has been instructed that that vessel is at command. Unless required at Calcutta, her early despatch to Bombay would be advisable.

15. The suggestion regarding tents, in your 15th paragraph, has been anticipated.

16. As respects provision of carriage in Abyssinia, noted in the 16th paragraph of your letter, I am desired to say that, although it appears from the report of Colonel Merewether that there is a reasonable prospect of obtaining transport animals in that country, it is the opinion of that Officer that this would entirely depend upon the friendly disposition and co-operation of the Native tribes in the vicinity of the port where the troops were debarked. His Excellency the Governor is aware of

the difficulty in procuring transport animals from elsewhere and sending them to Abyssinia, but he is averse to rely entirely upon the uncertain supplies that may be obtained in the country itself. The advices hitherto received from India, Persia, Arabia, Egypt, and Europe promise a supply which, it is hoped, will leave us little dependent on Abyssinian resources. Steam transport is provided for the conveyance of the animals from all the countries mentioned.

17. The 18th paragraph of your letter notices with approval the proposal to organize a large corps of coolies. I am desired to ask that two thousand may be sent fully organized and officered from Calcutta.

18. The 19th paragraph of your letter recommends that no wheeled carts save Artillery should be taken. His Excellency Sir Robert Napier, however, hopes to make a road passable for wheeled transport carriages to the first post on the highlands, and thinks that, from the first, waggons will be very useful for transport between the wharves and the stores at the port. Sir Robert Napier, therefore, has been most desirous to procure a certain number of transport train waggons.

19. His Excellency in Council will be much obliged by a staff of Telegraph Officers, with necessary material, being sent from your side of India, as offered in the 20th paragraph of your letter.

20. The advantages of pay and rations, mentioned in the 21st paragraph of your letter, will be given to the troops of the expedition, as suggested.

21. On the subject of the Officers proposed for the commands noticed in the postscript of your letter, I am desired to refer to the nomination of Major-General Sir Charles Staveley and Major-General Malcolm, as made in the Minutes of His Excellency the Governor and Sir R. Napier. I am to add that His Excellency the Governor has communicated with the Secretary of State with respect to local rank for Sir C. Staveley, to secure his seniority as second in command, and has received a reply that the necessary recommendation will be made accordingly.

I have, &c.,

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government,

Enclosure 3 in No. 736.

Minute by Sir ROBERT NAPIER, dated 5th September 1867.

Memorandum in reply to the Government of India's Letter, dated 25th August.

Enclosure 10
in No. 572.

Para. 2. "Desirability of furnishing from Bombay only a portion of the force for Abyssinia."

It is of some consequence, in an expedition of the nature of that in contemplation, which may have to encounter hardship, fatigue, and privation of no ordinary kind, that the troops to be employed should know each other and their Commander.

I consider it especially of advantage to have the Native regiments, if possible, of one army, as they work in harmony with and rely on each other. If they are of different Presidencies, feelings of great bitterness arise when one or other is left in the rear, and partialities are conjured up as the reason why one or other is not taken to the front. This was expressed to His Excellency in my demi-official note of the 18th of August.

In my Memorandum, dated 17th of August, on the Native Infantry, I explained how I proposed to obtain the Native Infantry regiments, the Madras Government having consented to lend four regiments of Infantry. It was proposed to obtain from Bengal the relief of the Native Infantry regiment which now garrisons Augur and Mehidpoor (formerly belonging to the Gwalior Contingent, so as to release a Bombay regiment.

It was considered possible that the aid of another Bengal regiment might be obtained for Nussceerabad or Neemuch, if there should arise difficulty in providing for the duties temporarily during the absence of the Bombay regiments named for foreign service.

The only aid in Infantry to accompany the expedition required from Bengal was a regiment of Pioneers. They would be very valuable. I have added to the force four companies of Sappers, and every Bombay regiment, European and Native, will be provided with tools for two companies, and will work, when necessary, for the purposes of the expedition. Still, I know from experience the special value of the Pioneer Corps, as Pioneers and soldiers of the Line, and should be glad to have it.

In my Memorandum, dated the 17th of August, regarding the European Infantry, I explained the great advantage of taking the British regiments stationed near the coast of Bombay, for reasons apart from those set forth in my 1st paragraph. They being at hand for preparation and embarkation when required, with the least possible disturbance of existing arrangements, all that would be required is that Bengal and Madras shall make temporary provision for the duties of the 45th and 26th Regiments, pending the conclusion of the expedition. This has also been explained in my memorandum of reply to the Viceroy's telegram, dated August 24th; and a copy of my memorandum was transmitted to His Excellency Sir William Mansfield, with my demi-official letter of the 26th of August.

The Government of India concurs in the amount of force, and proposes certain modifications, viz., Para. 3. to send two Field Batteries from Madras, instead of four from Bombay.

In consideration of the delay which may take place in the final advance of the force, I have resolved not to trust to opening wheel tracks for Artillery beyond Post No. 2, on the table-land, and therefore to take from Bombay only,—

One battery, Royal Horse Artillery.
 One field battery, Armstrong's, to be accompanied by Elephant carriage.
 One mountain train, rifled guns, from Bengal, with men.
 One mountain train, coming from England.
 One Native mountain train, from Bombay.
 Six 5½-inch mortars.

The three garrison batteries at Bombay, now under orders for England, will furnish two complete batteries to man the mountain train coming from England, and the six 5½-inch mortars.

The Government of India proposes to attach the six 5½-inch mortars to the Bengal mountain battery, but I prefer very much to have them separate and independent; the mountain battery is to serve us as field artillery, the mortars for siege purposes, and it will be much more convenient to have them separate and independent.

I therefore propose to take two garrison batteries from this Presidency out of the three named for England, and detain them for the Abyssinian expedition.

I have proposed to take three companies of Bombay Sappers, and Madras has agreed to lend three companies, making six in all, with a light park of tools, and pontoon train, to travel on camels and mules.

Four regiments of Native Cavalry might be provided as follows:—

One regiment of Sind Horse, to be relieved by the 2d Bombay Cavalry, now holding Nusseerabad and Neemuch. Bengal to take the duties of Nusseerabad and Neemuch.
 The 3d Light Cavalry from Poona, without relief.
 Poona Horse to be relieved by a regiment of Madras Cavalry.
 One regiment of Cavalry to come from Bengal for service.

The Cavalry force would then be,—

One regiment of Bengal Cavalry.	
One Sind Horse	
One 3d Light Cavalry	} Bombay.
One Poona Horse	

The Government of India might be asked if they prefer to supply one regiment for service in Abyssinia, and one in relief of the Bombay Cavalry at Nusseerabad and Neemuch, or to send for service in Abyssinia, two regiments of Native Cavalry, and then no aid would be required, from Madras, Bombay making its own arrangements to substitute Police for the Poona Horse, and thus relieving the regiment of Sind Horse.

Sir H. Green represents that he considers that it would be very unadvisable to withdraw a regiment of Sind Horse without relief.

In this latter case, the Cavalry would stand thus for service,—

Two regiments Bengal Cavalry.
 Two regiments Bombay Cavalry.

Native Infantry.

I much prefer the arrangement as at present proposed.

Eight regiments of Native Infantry of the increased strength proposed would not be so useful to me as nine regiments as they at present stand, both as regards facility of distribution and the proportion of Officers. See Para. 6.

Squadron British Cavalry.

I consider it desirable to represent the British element even by so small a detachment. I have found a squadron of most essential service; and the regiment from which I propose to take it, the 3d Dragoon Guards, can spare it temporarily without relief; and the men, from training and efficiency, are eminently fitted for the service. They will be much more valuable to me than the addition for the Artillery of eight men and 128 horses suggested by the Government of India; and I beg the arrangement may not be disturbed, unless from absolute necessity. See Para. 4.

I have previously stated that I should be glad to have the mountain battery proposed by the Government of India, but without the additions in men for the mortar battery. Para. 5.

I would respectfully adhere to the arrangements already proposed. In an expedition where the employment of detachments is likely to be frequent and where the utmost economy of means will be necessary, nothing would be less convenient than two separate Divisions, under different rules and organization, with their component parts non-interchangeable, or interchangeable at the expense of

much confusion and difficulty of adjustment. Thus the demands on other Presidencies would be limited to the aid,

From Madras,—

Four regiments of Infantry for relief, and three companies of Sappers for service.

From the Government of India,—

Two regiments of Cavalry and one of Pioneers.

One Mountain Train Battery for foreign service.

And, one regiment of Native Infantry to relieve Augur and Mehidpoor.

Para. 15. It had already been determined to use sepoy's tents for the British regiments, and they are being prepared for the purpose by having the poles and ridge poles jointed to adapt them for mule carriage.

Para. 16. The subject of carriage might be answered separately.

See Para. 17. It has been proposed to send 20 elephants from this Presidency, and the addition offered by the Government of India may be accepted. The Bengal Government might be asked to engage and send a Corps of 1,000 coolies, engaged to serve in any capacity, with the requisite Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers in charge.

See Para. 19. I am of opinion that the wheeled carriages will be found most valuable between the ships and the depôt, and in a short time they will penetrate to post No. 2, and aid greatly in the transport of supplies; but it has already been resolved on to relinquish the idea of taking them further.

Para. 20. The offer of the Government of India regarding the telegraph may be accepted.

Para. 21. The pay, rations, and clothing given to the troops on the China expedition of 1860 will be very appropriate for Abyssinia, also the replacing at the public expense the horses of the Silladar Cavalry that may die or become unserviceable during the expedition.

Finally, it might be said, if His Excellency the Governor approve, that the Bombay Government confine their request for assistance as recapitulated,

From the Bengal Presidency,—

One Mountain Battery manned by British Gunners.

Two regiments Native Cavalry for service, or one for service and one for relief.

One Corps of Punjaub Pioneers, with a Coolie Corps, properly officered, of 1,000 men, to be engaged for every service, portage, labour, or landing baggage animals.

Madras,—

Four companies of Sappers, for service;

Four regiments Native Infantry in relief.

The Government of Bombay will answer regarding the shipping and financial arrangements and boats for embarkation.

The increase proposed for regiments of Native Cavalry and Infantry might be accepted to such extent as may be necessary for regiments left behind; and Sir H. Green might be asked if 20 men per troop will compensate him for the loss of a regiment without relief.

Para. 11. Due provision for the whole force is being made.

Paras. 12 & 13. The time of the expedition is uncertain, but six months' supplies are ordered, and must be followed up by further supplies immediately for three months, and continued so as never to have less than six months' supplies in hand, until the termination of the expedition is clearly seen.

Para. 14. The steamer "Feroze" might be accepted, and would, no doubt, be useful.

Para. 18. The aid of Bengal in this Corps (coolies) may be solicited.

The names of Officers proposed for Divisions might be mentioned.

R. NAPIER.

Enclosure 4 in No. 736.

Minute by the Governor of Bombay, dated 8th September 1867.

I agree with His Excellency generally in the suggestions he has made; and the Government of India should be informed that, as expressed by His Excellency in his note to me of the 18th August, it is desirable, as far as possible, that the Native regiments should belong to the same Presidency, and that the offer, consequently, of a division from Bengal is not accepted.

That we propose to take two Native Cavalry regiments from Bengal on service, one regiment Punjaub Pioneers, and a mountain train, also on service; and that we wish a Native Infantry regiment to relieve the Bombay regiment removed from Mehidpoor and Augur. I think this will be the best arrangement. As regards the Cavalry force, we shall then have for service, in addition to the two regiments of Native Cavalry from Bengal, one regiment Sind Horse relieved by the Poona Horse, and the 3d Cavalry removed without relief. It would, I think, be desirable, as both these regiments will then be removed from this part of the Presidency, that the place of the Poona Horse should be taken by a regiment of Native Cavalry from Madras.

The arrangements as regards the Native Infantry will then remain as proposed by His Excellency, as well as those with reference to the European Infantry, the regiments to be employed being the 4th, 26th, 33d, and 45th.

As regards the Artillery, the arrangements would be as proposed by His Excellency, unless, in consideration of our having an extra mountain train from England, he thinks he can dispense with the

battery of Royal Horse Artillery. Provision will have to be made for the manning of this mountain battery. Perhaps this might be best done by employing both the garrison batteries which His Excellency proposes to detain for the expedition to man the two mountain trains from England, and asking the Bengal Government to provide the mortar battery and the necessary elephant carriage for the purpose.

With the exception of this latter elephant carriage, I should have thought that it would not be requisite to have elephants from Bengal in addition to the 20 from Bombay. But, of course, it is for His Excellency to decide.

With reference to the Cooly Corps, I think it would be desirable to have two or even three thousand from Bengal, instead of one thousand as suggested by His Excellency. It will not do to have coolies from Bengal at a lower rate of pay, side by side with others receiving much more from Bombay. It would be best that all our coolies should come from Bengal.

It would be desirable to have from Bengal telegraph material and *staff complete*.

As regards the increase proposed to the Native Cavalry and the Sind Horse, I think it undesirable, on account of the difficulties which arise in Silladar regiments in case of reduction; and, by the proposal to relieve the Sind Horse in the manner suggested, the temporary increase will not be required.

I understand from His Excellency, that he thinks it would be proper to leave it to the Government of India to name a Brigade Staff, and to this, if His Excellency wishes it, I see no objection.

I think it might be as well to say that the Generals of Division will be Sir C. Staveley, and, if the Board should be of that opinion, and no appointment is suggested from home (as was done in the case of Sir C. Staveley), that General Malcolm might also be named for a Division.

With reference to marine transports, I do not entertain the apprehension, as regards the difficulty in procuring it, which seems to be felt by the Government of India. With the assistance of the vessels of the Royal Navy and the large steamers we expect from England, together with the steamers we are able to take up under the Government contract with the Peninsular and Oriental and the British India Companies as well as from other Companies, we shall probably obtain at least fifty steamers of large tonnage, and a large number of sailing vessels can perhaps be as easily obtained in Bombay as in Calcutta.

We shall be obliged to provide ourselves with a large proportion of our stores, forage, &c., from Calcutta; and, as the freight for these will also be taken from thence, the expenditure of a considerable sum there will thus be secured, as desired by the Government of India.

It is impossible at present to give the precise dates required by the Government of India; but all preparations required to carry out the above arrangements should be at once made; and further and more precise information will hereafter be furnished.

W. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

Enclosure 5 in No. 736.

Minute by Sir ROBERT NAPIER, dated 8th September 1867.

Regarding the question of Mountain Train and Royal Horse Artillery, it may hereafter be considered.

It should be explained that General Malcolm's nomination is conditional as regards rank relative to the second in command.

I should like to have all the elephants I can, viz., for our field battery and for the mortars.

R. NAPIER.

Enclosure 6 in No. 736.

Minute by Mr. ELLIS, dated 9th September, and subscribed by Mr. MANSFIELD.

I concur with the Right Honourable the Governor.

B. H. ELLIS.

S. MANSFIELD.

Enclosure 7 in No. 736.

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir, Fort St. George, 26th August 1867.

In continuation of the telegram sent to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, copy of which is annexed, I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency in Council, the accompanying Proceedings of this Government relative to the measures contemplated for furnishing troops from this Presidency, in the event of an expedition proceeding to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.

Enclosure 8 in No. 736.

The Quartermaster-General to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Head Quarters, Ootacamund,
20th August 1867.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your confidential reference, dated 17th instant, I have the honour, by order, to state that the Commander-in-Chief agrees with Government, that four regiments of Native Infantry and three companies of Sappers can be spared from this command, in the event of an expedition proceeding to Abyssinia; and His Excellency expresses a hope that a brigade for that service will be furnished by the troops in this Presidency.

2. Should it be determined, however, that Madras troops are merely to occupy Bombay garrisons, Sir Gaspard Le Marchant would, with deference, suggest the following arrangements, in lieu of those communicated in the reference under acknowledgment, viz,—

Sholapore.—The 12th Regiment to move by rail from Kamptee to Sholapore.

Belgaum.—The 17th and 40th Regiments to embark at Quilon and Cannanore for Vingorla, and thence march to Belgaum.

Dharwar.—The 39th Regiment to embark at Tuticorin for Carwar, and march to Dharwar.

3. These movements could be carried out quickly and with facility, and would disturb as little as possible the scheme of reliefs for the season already decided upon.

4. The Commander-in-Chief suggests that the 12th, 17th, 40th, and 39th Regiments should leave their families behind them, until some idea can be formed as to how long these Corps are likely to be employed out of the Presidency.

5. With regard to the arrangements requisite at the stations from whence these regiments will move, the Commander-in-Chief proposes as follows:—

Kamptee.—If the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, should consider that one Native regiment of Infantry is insufficient at this station, the head quarters and a wing of the 32d Regiment to be sent there from Hoosungabad. This will make the strength of the garrison at each of these stations the same as it was before the Madras troops left the Saugor District in 1866.

Quilon.—The 23d is under orders for Quilon. This regiment to move from Trichinopoly, and, *en route*, to leave one company at Trichoor. The remaining three companies to remain at Trichinopoly, to assist in the garrison duties at that station, until the arrival there of the 26th Regiment, when they will also leave for Quilon; the out-post at Trichoor will then be increased to its proper strength, by one of these companies being left there.

Cannanore.—The force at this station to be temporarily reduced to the extent of one regiment of Native Infantry.

Palamcottah.—This station to be abandoned, or, at least, to be left temporarily without a corps. But should Government not accede to this, the head quarters and a wing of the 22d (now under orders for Palamcottah) to march from Bangalore.

6. Adverting to the arrangements suggested by Government, the Commander-in-Chief is unwilling, if it can be avoided, to move the 5th Regiment from Hurryhur, where it only arrived towards the end of January last, after many months of detention in camp at Bangalore; and the straitened circumstances of the men of this regiment were brought to the notice of Government in the correspondence recorded in the Order of Government, dated 26th March last.

7. With regard to the proposal that a regiment should go from Bangalore to Dharwar, the Commander-in-Chief submits that it would necessitate another corps (or a wing) being sent to Bangalore. This might, of course, be arranged by the removal of the 38th; but, as that regiment only arrived at Cuddapah from Secunderabad in February last, and is on the roster for foreign service in 1868–69, His Excellency would prefer its remaining where it is, until, at least, it is decided whether Cuddapah is or is not to be abandoned as a military station.

8. If regiments are removed from Bellary and Secunderabad, as suggested, others must be sent to replace them; and as the object contemplated can be so much more easily effected by sea and rail in the manner above proposed in para. 2, the Commander-in-Chief does not recommend that these garrisons should furnish any of the corps required for the Bombay stations.

9. The companies of Sappers next for foreign service are the H., I., and K.; the first is at Bangalore, and the other two at Secunderabad. The Commander-in-Chief would name them for service in Abyssinia, if required.

10. The 500 “Tents, Native,” can be given. But the Commander-in-Chief desires to bring to the notice of Government that the whole number available, exclusive of those in the Pegu Division, is 1,750, many of which are barely serviceable for ordinary marches, and that a large proportion must shortly be replaced by new ones. The proposed allotment for all stations is now with the Controller of Military Accounts.

Enclosure 9 in No. 736.

Order of the Madras Government, 26th August 1867.

The Right Honourable the Governor in Council approves of the several arrangements proposed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in the foregoing letter, and resolves to inform the Government of Bombay of the measures now contemplated.

2. It being considered undesirable that Palamcottah should be left wholly without Native troops, the second of the alternatives suggested in the last clause of para. 5 of the foregoing letter will be adopted.

3. The Chief Commissioner, Central Province, will be addressed on the subject of the arrangements proposed with respect to Kamptee.

4. The Resident at Hyderabad will be apprised of the modifications now sanctioned, and of the intended employment of the I. and K. Companies of Sappers and Miners on service in Abyssinia, if required.

5. The concluding paragraph will be communicated to the Commissary-General, in view to his making adequate provision, in the Budget for 1868-69, for the supply of camp equipage.

Enclosure 10 in No. 736.

Telegram from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Governor of Bombay.

Fort St. George, August 26th, 1867.

In modification of arrangements communicated in cipher message of seventeenth instant, one regiment will be sent from Kamptee to Sholapore, two to Belgaum from Quilon and Cannanore, and one from Palamcottah to Dharwar. Particulars by post.

Enclosure 11 in No. 736.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Sir, Bombay Castle, September 7th, 1867.

This Government desires to establish an agency at Suez for everything connected with the Abyssinian expedition.

Captain Willoughby, of the Bombay Commissariat Department, with two other Officers and a Veterinary Surgeon, have been sent to Suez to buy and ship mules and pack-horses. But it is likely that the number of animals which will come either from or through Egypt will be very much larger than was at first expected. Moreover, large quantities of stores will be forwarded through Egypt, and for the charge and despatch of these and all the arrangements and accounts connected therewith a regular agency is requisite.

The Government proposes, therefore, to leave Captain Willoughby, and the Officers under his orders, to the duty of purchasing and taking care of the transport animals, and to send other Officers who will make all payments, keep accounts, receive and forward stores from England, take up ships, and settle accounts of such ships, and do the general agency in Egypt of this Government in connexion with the expedition.

I am desired to inquire whether the Madras Government could supply Officers for this purpose. His Excellency in Council thinks that it would be well to send five or six, with the understanding that they will make themselves generally useful in any way which the Superintending Agency may think good for the Government service. At the same time they should all be capable of the important primary duties above indicated. They should be subordinate to the Chief Commissariat Officer of the Abyssinian expedition, and be considered to form part of that department for the time.

The Government would pay these Officers as the Government of Madras may advise.

After the above statement of purpose, it is scarcely necessary to add that the Senior Officer (the Superintending Agent), and at least one other, should be Officers of considerable experience, with known aptitude for organization and for direction of accounts.

If a staff of clerks could be sent with them, it would be advantageous. The number and rates of pay the Government would leave to be determined by the Government of Madras, on the advice of the principal Officer selected for the duty.

It would also be convenient if the principal Officer should come to Bombay so as to leave by an early opportunity, even if some of his subordinates should be unavoidably later.

Will you kindly send me word by telegram whether the Madras Government be able to give a general assent, in order that the intended arrangement may be reported to the Secretary of State so soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 12 in No. 736.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Sir, Poona, 13th September 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Deputy Secretary Colonel Hamilton's letter, of 26th August, and to express the thanks of His Excellency in Council and his sense of great obligation to the Madras Government for so readily and exactly meeting the wishes of this Government in its arrangements for detaching a force to Abyssinia.

Y y 4

His Excellency in Council very much regrets that he has been unable to meet the desire of the Madras Government to furnish a brigade from the Madras army to take part in the expedition. On this subject I am desired to communicate the accompanying copies of a letter from the Government of India, of 25th August, and of my reply of 13th instant.

I had the honour of asking, by my letter of 7th September, the aid of your Government as respects Commissariat Officers; and I am now to add that, if it should be agreeable to your Government, His Excellency in Council will be very glad that a portion of the Engineer Staff should be supplied from the Madras Army, and His Excellency Sir Robert Napier will be glad to have the services of two Field Engineers and four Assistant Field Engineers, beside the Officers whom you may send with the Sappers. He would only wish that no one of them should be senior to Lieutenant-Colonel H. St. Clair Wilkins, whom Sir Robert Napier has nominated as Commanding Engineer.

His Excellency in Council hopes the Government of Madras will be able to make other arrangements in place of Her Majesty's 45th Regiment, which was to have been transferred to your Presidency, and also to supply a Native Cavalry Regiment to relieve the Poona Horse at Seroor.

I have, &c.,

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 737.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 14th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of Major-General Pears's letter of the 11th instant, transmitting a copy of letter from Captain C. Johnson, with a memorandum relative to transport ponies from Servia and Bulgaria, and suggesting whether it may not be desirable for one of the officers employed under Colonel Kennedy to make further inquiries into the matter.

In reply, I am to state that the demands upon this Department by the India Office have hitherto been exclusively for mules.

A communication was made to the India Office on the 30th ultimo, stating that the Bombay Government had required from Colonel Kennedy 3,000 additional *pack-horses* or mules; the reply to which, on the 8th October, was, that the purchases might be extended from 5,000 to 8,000 *mules*, provided they could be obtained within the specified time.

On 9th instant a letter was addressed to you from this Office, enclosing an extract of a letter from Colonel Kennedy relative to the purchase of pack-horses, to which a reply has not yet been received.

Sir John Pakington is of opinion that it would be too late now to obtain pack-horses from Servia and Bulgaria "within the prescribed time," but that, as stated in the letter of 9th instant, pack-horses may be obtained with great advantage in Syria and Turkey to complete the supplementary demand made on the 8th instant for 3,000 additional pack animals.

If the demands on this Department had not been hitherto so exclusively confined to *mules*, the labour, expense, and risk attending the collection of pack animals would have been diminished in proportion to the number of pack-horses demanded, as they are cheaper and more abundant (particularly in the Levant), and bear sea transport much better than mules.

I am also directed to suggest, if pack animals other than mules are required, whether a proportion of donkeys may be purchased, those animals being abundant, cheap, and of good quality in Egypt:

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 738.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 131.

Sir,

India Office, 15th October 1867.

In continuation of my Despatch, dated the 30th of September, No. 124, I have now to communicate to you the further measures which have been adopted respecting the expedition to Abyssinia.

2. In consequence of a telegram which has been received from the Agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Company at Aden, estimating the supply of coal which will be required by the Government from the dépôt at Aden, up to the end of the present year, for the service of the overland troop vessels and the Abyssinian transports, at not far short of 30,000 tons, I have sanctioned the increase of the stock of coal at that place for Government purposes to that amount. Enclosure 2
in No. 655.

No. 703.

3. A list of the transports which have been engaged in this country for the purposes of the expedition is enclosed, and I request that you will forward to me, for the information of the Admiralty, a similar list of those which have been taken up at Bombay. Enclosure in
No. 577.

4. You will have learned from my telegram of the 8th instant that it is the wish of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the transports engaged by you on time charter should be numbered, in accordance with Article 220 of the Regulations for Her Majesty's Naval Transport Service, and that, to prevent confusion with those which have been hired in England or the Mediterranean, the series should commence with the number 50. No. 648.

5. A list of the stores despatched up to the present time is forwarded, in continuation and correction of those which have been previously transmitted to you; and I request that you will return them to me, as opportunity offers, with the date of the arrival of the stores filled in. Fifty blank forms were transmitted to you for this purpose by a preceding mail.

6. In accordance with the wish expressed by you to be informed of the arrangements for the despatch of stores from this country, I communicated to you by telegram, on the 30th of September, the intended transmission of 500 or 600 tons, consisting of one mountain battery, ammunition, forage, and some of the pack-saddles, from England on the 12th of this month; of the second battery, with equipment, by the "Serapis," on the 16th; and of some 800 tons, composed of the remainder of the pack-saddles, forage, and the cooking ranges, on the 25th of October. The stores are all consigned to Captain Willoughby, at Alexandria, for transmission to Suez; and, as it is impossible in this country to take up transport for them from Suez to Aden, it will be necessary for you to fetch them from Suez. No. 536.

7. Some delay has occurred in the shipment of the first mountain battery, owing to the conduct of the owners of the vessel which was engaged for its transport, and she has sailed for Egypt with only a portion of the stores on board. One of the batteries, as you have been informed, is to be conveyed by the "Serapis," by which vessel the two Officers, Lieutenants Nolan and Chapman, Royal Artillery, and the ten Non-commissioned Officers appointed to do duty with the battery, will proceed to Alexandria. The other battery and equipment will be forwarded to Egypt as soon as the necessary arrangements for its transmission are completed.

8. With reference to your indent for 393 tons of compressed hay, in addition to the 500 tons of forage which had been previously supplied, a question has been raised whether the mules, which in the East are fed on barley, would thrive on oats; and it appears desirable that the whole of the food should not be of too stimulating a nature. I have, therefore, sanctioned the provision of 200 tons of "forage," that is, oats and clover, and the remainder of "mixture," that is, clover and hay.

9. As regards your indent for a Normandy's condenser, it will be in your power, if you desire it, to obtain, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, one of those sent to Aden by the "Congress," in June last, which would, in that case, be replaced from this country as soon as possible.

10. The demand contained in your letter of the 4th of September last, No. 67, for a supply of patent yeast, was dealt with in anticipation, on the receipt of your telegram of the 29th of August, and the result was communicated to you in the 13th paragraph of my Despatch No. 107 of this year. No. 573.
No. 98.
No. 147.

11. Your indent for 1,400,000 rounds of Enfield rifle ammunition, dated August 24th, No. 6, has not been complied with, since, as you were informed by me in my message of the 7th instant, it has been determined to arm the European troops with Snider rifles; I therefore assumed that you would not wish that the ammunition for Enfield rifles should be sent out. No. 635.

No. 147 12. In the 12th paragraph of my Despatch of the 3d of September last, No. 107, you were informed that a supply of 4,000 breech-loading Snider rifles would be sent for the Infantry. The number actually under provision is slightly in excess of this amount, namely, 4,114.

Nos. 596 and 597. 13. A copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, dated the 4th instant, with its enclosures, is transmitted for your information, respecting the instructions given by the Ottoman Government to its officers in Bagdad, the Hedjaz, and Yemen, to facilitate the collection of beasts of burden for the use of the British force. You will perceive from these papers that there appears to be a probability of a large number of mules or pack-horses being obtainable in Turkish Arabia and Persia.

14. I also forward a copy of a letter from Messrs. Goodliffe and Smart, intimating that they would be able to obtain thoroughly seasoned and trained mules at the Cape of Good Hope, at the price of 12*l.* or 15*l.* each, provided that it be not known that they are required for Government purposes. In apprising you of this offer by telegram on the 7th instant, I desired that, if you thought fit to do so, you would communicate direct with Messrs. Goodliffe, Smart, and Searle, at the Cape.

No. 479. 15. On the 24th of September, I telegraphed to you that about 5,000 mules might be expected to be at Suez by the beginning of November, and I asked whether this number would be sufficient. Not having received a reply from you, I renewed my inquiry on the 3d instant; but as yet I have had no answer on the subject. In the meantime, however, having heard from the Secretary of State for War that Colonel Kennedy, under whom the arrangements for the collection of mules in Egypt are placed, had reported that a communication had been made by you to Captain Willoughby, desiring that 3,000 more mules might be obtained by the 20th of November, I have requested Sir John Pakington to authorize Colonel Kennedy to extend his purchases to 8,000, provided that the animals can be ready for embarkation at Suez within the specified time. As Colonel Kennedy is under the orders of the War Department, and is only employed in Egypt for a temporary purpose, it is desirable that any instructions which you may find it necessary to give to the Officers despatched to that country by your Government should not be made to affect Colonel Kennedy's proceedings.

No. 147. 16. In the 11th paragraph of my Despatch, No. 107, you were apprised that 1,800 sets of wheel harness would be forwarded from this country for the use of the expedition. The number already shipped is 1,206, and, as this will provide three sets for each of the 400 Maltese carts, I have determined not to send the remaining 594 sets of harness.

Nos. 580, 598, 671, and 723.

17. The various letters noted in the margin,* respecting certain issues of clothing, arms, and accoutrements, which have been made by the War Office to detachments proceeding from this country, are forwarded for your information, as, should the articles be eventually taken to India, their value will become chargeable on the Indian revenues.

* Letters from War Office :—

October 3d, 1867.	Issue to	Royal Engineers.
" 4th, "	" "	" "
" 9th, "	" "	Colonel Kennedy.
" 10th, "	" "	Mountain Battery Detachment.
" 14th, "	" "	Hospital Corps.

No. 376. 18. In continuation of the papers transmitted to you with the 11th paragraph of my Despatch dated the 16th of September, No. 119, I forward a copy of a further letter from the Foreign Office, with its enclosures, respecting the action of the Porte in granting facilities for the passage of the expedition through Egyptian territory.

No. 516.

No. 603. 19. I also transmit a copy of another letter from the Foreign Office, with enclosures, on the subject of the use of the Syrian coast for the transmission of telegraphic messages from Suez to Bombay.

No 447. 20. With regard to the observations contained in the 7th paragraph of your letter dated the 24th of August last, No. 63, respecting the point from which the expedition into Abyssinia would start, I forward a copy of a letter from the War Office, dated the 4th instant, containing observations on the subject by Lieutenant-Colonel Cooke, of the Topographical Department.

No. 583. 21. A further letter from the War Office, dated the 3d instant, with its accompanying papers, a copy of which is transmitted to you, contains detailed statements of the medical and purveying establishments and stores placed on board the hospital ships.

The Secretary of State for War has been informed that the Officers will all be brought on the Indian Establishment from the date of their arrival at Aden. No. 436.

22. Your letter dated the 4th of September, No. 68, requested that about 30 signallers might be sent out with suitable apparatus, for service with the Abyssinian expedition. You have already been informed that measures were in progress for complying with this request; and on the 9th of October I apprised you by telegram, in reply to your inquiry of the 3d, that, besides poles and tents, one Engineer subaltern and twelve European signallers would be required from Bombay, with which assistance the material and establishment would be complete for laying down a line of 450 miles. No. 574. No. 376. No. 665. No. 571.

23. The Officer proposed as Superintendent of the Telegraph Department with the force, Lieutenant St. John, Royal Engineers, will be directed to proceed to Egypt as soon as arrangements for the passage can be made, with the various detachments of Royal Engineers, the strength of which is not yet finally determined.

24. He will also be accompanied by a party of about 25 men, under the direction of Lieutenant A. Le Messurier, Royal Engineers, who have been instructed in the mode of sinking Norton's American tube wells, which appear likely to be of much service as a means of procuring fresh and pure water, and of which 50 will be forwarded. Copies of the report by Lieutenant Hurst, who conducted the experiments with these wells at Chatham, are transmitted for your information. Enclosure in No. 578.

25. I have also sanctioned the provision of three Bastier's chain pumps, which are intended to raise water readily from rivers or wells already formed. No. 702.

26. On the receipt of your telegram of the 24th of September, asking for a supply of Medical Officers, to be at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary force, I communicated your wishes respecting the British troops to the Secretary of State for War, and directed all Medical Officers of the Bombay Army who are at home on sick leave or furlough, to hold themselves in readiness to return to their duty in the event of their services being required. As soon as arrangements can be made for their passage, they will be ordered to proceed to Suez, where they will await the instructions of Sir Robert Napier. No. 482. No. 553. Nos. 626 and 627.

27. With reference to the letters from Surgeon-Major Wyatt, a copy of which was transmitted with my Despatch, No. 124, I forward a copy of a Memorandum which has been drawn up by the Army Medical Department, on the proposed use of essence of water-cress, in the form of an anti-scorbutic. Enclosures 6 and 7 in No. 540. Enclosure in No. 687.

28. A copy of a letter from the War Office, dated the 2d instant, with its enclosures, and of the reply thereto, dated the 11th October, respecting a proposition by the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham, for the construction of a railway for the use of the force in Abyssinia, is forwarded to you. No. 561. No. 706.

29. In reply to your message of the 5th instant, in connexion with this subject, I telegraphed to you on the 10th to use your own discretion in the matter. No. 621. No. 683.

30. A letter from General Chesney, dated the 30th of September, respecting a man named Seyd Ali, now residing at Alexandria, who is stated to be capable of rendering important service during the expedition, as well as willing to do so, is forwarded for the information of Sir Robert Napier, in the event of his desiring to employ him as a guide.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 738.

RETURN OF STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition.

No. 4.

India Office, 18th October 1867.

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
Blue serge banyans	4,000	} Liverpool	Bombay	"England"	1867. 12th September.	
Flannel shirts	4,000					
Neck comforters	4,000					
Jersey shirts	4,000					
Worsted stockings	4,000					
Nighttraps	4,000					
Gloves	4,000					
Great coats	500					
Boots	12,000					
Boot laces, sparo	12,000					
Mittens	4,000	} London	Aden or Massowah	"Golden Fleece"	27th September.	
Blankets	12,000					
Salt beef, Admiralty	70,000	} Liverpool	Bombay	"Queen"	14th September.	
" pork,	35,000					
" beef, Powell and Sons'	2,016	} London	Aden or Massowah	"City of Manchester"	18th September.	
" pork,	954					
Essence of beef	2,400	} Liverpool	Bombay	"Golden Fleece"	27th September.	
Preserved potato	15,000					
Compressed vegetables	15,016	} "	" "	1,400 lbs, "Mauritius"	12th October.	
Desiccated milk	50					
Compressed forage	50	} Liverpool	Bombay	"Mauritius"	27th September.	
Compressed hay and forage	50					
Waterproof Sheets	30,000	} London	Aden or Massowah	"Coreyra"	12th September.	
Portable cooking ranges, Warren's pattern	40					
Perkins's portable ovens	3	} Liverpool	Bombay	"Queen"	14th September.	
Waterproof covers	2,100					

Balance will be sent by the end of this month.
Will be shipped in November *via* Alexandria and Suez.

Will be despatched to Suez, *via* Alexandria, by steamer on 1st November.

The oven, per "Golden Fleece," is half the size and weight of the other two.

Enclosure 1 in No. 738—cont.

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition—cont.

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
Magnetic field instruments	4					
Copper wire, B.C., 85 standard - miles	250					
Drums for winding - miles	175					
Hooper's core, 20 diameter - miles	50					
Wire, iron, No. 8 gauge - cwt.	4					
Insulators	2,000					
Relay instruments recording - cases	8					
Field	12					
Marie Davy's elements, 12 in a case "	12					
" " 24 " "	8					
Cases containing earth plate, &c.	12					
" " repairing instruments	4					
Insulators	2,000					
Marie Davy's elements, 8 in a } cases	8					{ Will be shipped to Suez, via Alexandria, on 1st November proximo.
(galvanometers -	2					
Morse paper for relay instruments - discs	500					
" " for field	4					
Lightning dischargers						
Protosulphate of mercury, in tins } lbs.	100					
Connecting screws	100					
Bottles of ink	72					
Blocks and tackles, iron - sets	3					
Billhooks	50					
Axes, American	10					
Handles, spare for ditto	20					
Borers, earth	6					
Scoops	12					
Hooks for fixing insulators	12					
Whistles	56					
Clasp knives	25					
Turn-screws	56					
Despatch bags	12					
Two-wheeled barrows	12					
Connectors	100					{ Will be shipped to Suez, via Alexandria, by steamer on the 1st November proximo.

Enclosure 2 in No. 738.

Messrs. GOODLIFFE and SMART to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Crosby House, Bishopsgate Street, London,
4th October 1867.

Sir,

We observe in the newspapers that Officers have been sent to Constantinople to purchase mules for the Abyssinian expedition, and that their mission was unsuccessful. We, of course, do not know if there is any truth in this report; but it leads us to draw your attention to the fact that a large number of thoroughly seasoned and trained mules can be purchased at the Cape of Good Hope.

The price would very much depend on the mode in which the purchase was conducted, as, were it known the Government were in the market, prices would be, of course, run up to an extravagant point; but, assuming due caution were exercised, and it were not known the Government were operating, we think thoroughly good trained mules could be obtained at from 12*l*. to 15*l*. per head.

The nature of the country and climate at the Cape being not very dissimilar to that of Abyssinia, would render the animals more hardy than European mules, and better adapted to the work.

The voyage from the Cape to Massowah could be performed in about three weeks, and the risk, as compared with a three months' voyage, greatly diminished. We think freight might be obtained at about 12*l*. per head on the animals delivered alive; but this, as in the case of the purchase, would greatly depend on the secrecy of the operation.

Our Mr. Searle has resided at the Cape for many years, and is perfectly conversant with all matters of business connected with that colony; he returns thither by the mail steamer on the 9th instant, and, should the Government think proper to entrust him with any commission, we can pledge ourselves to its being efficiently and economically carried out.

Should the Government entertain this proposition, we shall be prepared to wait on you at any time, and to supply you with any further particulars that may be deemed necessary.

We, of course, need not remark that there is a very short interval prior to the departure of the mail.

We are, &c.,
GOODLIFFE and SMART.

Enclosure 3 in No. 738.

Lieutenant-General CHESNEY to the Secretary of State for War.

Packolet, Ballyardle by Newry,
September 30th, 1867.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for your consideration, the name of Seyd Ali, who is now at Alexandria, and willing, as well as capable, of rendering important services during the coming expedition to Abyssinia, being, in addition to the knowledge which he acquired of the adjoining countries when under my command, well acquainted with the whole territory along the Nile, and as far as Massowah, which is to be the basis of our operations.

I may mention, as it were privately, that Seyd Ali is the son of a Frenchman by an Arabian woman, and, being at Baghdad, and familiar with French, Arabic, and Turkish, and also English, with much knowledge of the countries through which my expedition was to pass, he was sent from Baghdad to meet and remain with me. Having done so for more than two years with praiseworthy zeal, bravery, and fidelity, I obtained employment and also rank for him in the Sultan's service, in which he has continued for many years.

Very recently, however, his pay at Constantinople being seriously reduced, and having been offered employment in connexion with Bombay, he proceeded to Alexandria to accept the latter, and there found that he had been deceived, which will explain why he is now available to do, as I think and hope, a valuable service for Her Majesty's Government, by showing the same zeal and fidelity which he did under my command.

Under these circumstances, it is at once a duty and a pleasure to recommend Seyd Ali for any employment that may be desirable in the present advanced state of the Abyssinian expedition; and, in doing so, I feel some regret that it did not occur to me to offer to be useful during the preparations; for, although my travels ended a little short of the kingdom in question, they embraced somewhat largely much of the adjoining countries.

Should you decide on availing yourself of Seyd Ali's services, there is still (barely) time to enable me to make the necessary communication to him at Alexandria.

I have, &c.,
F. R. CHESNEY, Lieutenant-General.

No. 739.

The Chief Clerk, Transport Office, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Admiralty, Somerset House,
15th October 1867.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 14th instant, I beg to acquaint you that no steps will be taken for engaging conveyance to Suez for the telegraphic stores, &c., for

the Abyssinian expedition, until the receipt of a further communication from you on the subject.

I have, &c.,
W. WILLIS,
for Director of Transports.

No. 740.

Extract of a Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India, October 15th 1867.

In reply to
Nos. 239,
479, and 567.

100,000 sovereigns might be sent to Aden.

More than 5,000 mules advisable; telegraphed, a fortnight ago, to Alexandria, for addition up to 8,000, either mules or pack-horses,—the latter cheaper and as good. Instruct Colonel Kennedy as to this.

No. 741.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India, 15th October 1867.

In reply to
No. 683.

I shall not purchase tramway till I hear from Massowah, but will have materials ready, so as to be able to despatch everything in ten days. I shall want from England 100 light waggons, to put together on arrival, if not wheels and axles. What gauge would Brassey recommend? Four feet proposed. I find I can get 50 miles altogether.

No. 742.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 15th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 4th instant, relative to the provision of Norton's American Tube Wells for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying further communication from the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment on this subject.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 742.

The Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham to the Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Engineers.

Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham,
10th October 1867.

Sir, I have the honour to return herewith the letter of the Secretary of State for War, dated 5th instant, accompanied by a nominal roll of 1 sergeant and 20 men who have been selected, medically inspected, and reported fit for service in Abyssinia, that being the number which I should recommend being sent for the purpose of sinking the wells.

With respect to the apparatus which is to be provided for sinking 50 wells, the number which it has been decided by the Secretary of State for India to send out, I have to recommend that 10 complete sets of apparatus and tools be sent, accompanied by a proportion of extra nuts and screws to meet contingencies, they being liable to fracture in use; and, as there are a few points in the apparatus which require attention, I have to recommend that the whole should be carefully inspected whilst being made, and after delivery, so as to ensure that simplicity in the working parts which had not been carefully attended to in the apparatus tried here.

If approved, I would place Lieutenant Le Messurier in communication with Mr. Norton for the purpose.

With respect to the reduction in the number of wells, I have to observe that the cost of the wells themselves is comparatively trifling, being little more than so many feet of gas pipe.

If ten sets of driving apparatus only are supplied in the place of the 20 originally recommended by me, I think it would still be advisable to send 100 wells and pumps.

(4260.)

3 A

My reason for urging this is, that, if the supply of water is very abundant, the pumps are capable of lifting about 600 gallons per hour; as the run upon them will be very great, men and horses on the line of march being obliged to be watered in a very short time, whether before marching or when halted, it would seem desirable to have at least one pump at each station for the supply of 500 men or 300 horses.

If halting places are established on the line of march from the sea to the highlands, these pumps, or a very large portion of them, would be required to remain for the supply of detachments and transport animals, and, therefore, could not be taken up and re-sunk for after-use.

The number of pumps would, therefore, depend on the number of halting places and the strength of detachments. In the absence of absolute information to guide me, I considered that it might be advisable, if possible, to establish frequent halting places on the line of march, in which case 50 pumps of the power herein described would be soon absorbed, and, if the supply of water should not be sufficient to yield at the rate above referred to, but only at a diminished rate, the number would, of course, be increased.

Under these circumstances, if only ten sets of driving apparatus are sent, I would suggest a reconsideration of the question of the number of wells and pumps.

I have, &c.,

J. L. A. SIMMONS, Colonel,

Royal Engineers,

Director.

No. 743.

The Principal Librarian of the British Museum to the Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

British Museum, 15th October 1867.

The expedition which Her Majesty's Government proposes to send against Abyssinia appears to the Trustees of the British Museum to afford a favourable opportunity for scientific explorations in a part of the world which, while it has long been so completely cut off from Europe as to be almost unknown, yet possesses peculiar interest for the students of various branches of learning.

The accounts which have been given by the few travellers who have visited it afford good reason for assuming that a more searching exploration would be very fruitful in results.

Greek, Æthiopic, and Himyaritic inscriptions, of very great importance, both for sacred and profane history, have been copied, the originals of which probably exist *in situ*, and it is scarcely possible that explorations properly directed should not yield others of equal interest and importance.

Abyssinia, moreover, possesses one of the oldest Christian Churches in the East, and it may be reasonably anticipated that numerous ancient manuscripts must have been preserved there.

There is abundant evidence that the ancient kingdom of Æthiopia was, for many centuries, one of great power and importance. Many coins must have been struck there, yet not more than three or four ancient Æthiopic or Abyssinian coins are known to exist. Could a systematic search be made on the sites of the ruins of Axum (the capital) and of Adulis (the emporium), there can be little doubt that very many hitherto unknown coins would be discovered, as well as engraved stones and gems, with Pehlevi and Cupic legends.

As the expedition must pass through various wild tribes, arms and implements might be obtained which would illustrate the paintings and sculptures of Egypt, and conduce greatly to the promotion of ethnographical knowledge, whilst in Abyssinia itself many highly interesting Christian antiquities are almost certain to be met with.

Innumerable objects will, doubtless, come into the possession of the forces, which, if duly preserved and collected, may prove of great advantage to science, especially in the promotion of historical, biblical, and philological knowledge, but which, unless rescued at the moment, will be lost or destroyed, or dispersed as curiosities.

It appears, from the accounts of Salt and other travellers, that extensive ruins exist at places which, so far as the Trustees are able to judge, lie upon the line by which an invading army must advance. The presence of British troops in these places would afford peculiar facilities for rapid excavations, and for the removal of any monuments of antiquity which might be discovered.

For these several reasons the Trustees are desirous to recommend to Her Majesty's Government that a competent archæologist should accompany the force about to proceed to Abyssinia, whose duty it should be to collect inscriptions, coins, gems, manuscripts, ethnographical and other objects, and, as occasion might offer, transport them to England, for the Trustees of the British Museum.

The Trustees have accordingly directed me to request that you will be pleased to give the necessary authority that Mr. E. Deutsch, a gentleman now in the service of the Trustees, and specially qualified for the duties to be performed, may be permitted to accompany the expedition.

I have, &c.,
J. WINTER JONES.

No. 744.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, 15th October 1867.
On the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, Lord Stanley caused instructions No. 669. to be sent by telegraph to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berne, to make further inquiry as to the person residing in that city, represented to be an Abyssinian; and I am directed by His Lordship to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a Despatch No. 722. from Mr. Rumbold, reporting the result of the inquiries which he has made.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 745.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 15th, 1867.

It is complained that at Bombay undue preference is being given to wooden, over iron, transports. What reason is there for not placing them on an equal footing?

No. 746.

The Chief Clerk of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty, October 15th, 1867.
I have received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 8th instant, requesting to be informed of the practice of this Department in No. 658. determining the respective merits of iron and wooden vessels for transports.

I am commanded by their Lordships to request you will state to the Secretary of State for India that ships, whether of wood or iron, are taken up under the usual survey by the practical officers of the Department of the Director of Transports, and, further, that all the ships recently engaged in this country as transports are built of iron.

For service in tropical climates, however, certain points demand attention. The heat within an iron ship would be intolerable, were she not well lined throughout internally with wood, and painted externally white. If intended for lengthened service in the conveyance of troops to the tropics, it is of the utmost importance that ports be cut along each side on the main deck, and that no troops whatever should be quartered on the lower 'tween deck unless side scuttles are cut, which can be kept open in moderate weather at sea; even then, few in proportion to the space should be quartered in that portion of the ship, as the water-tight bulkheads (essential to the ship's safety) seriously impede ventilation; if, therefore, good wooden ships were available with ample internal space and good ventilation, their Lordships would be disposed to prefer them for service in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.,
J. H. BRIGGS.

No. 747.

Mr. LAIRD, M.P., to the Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Birkenhead, 15th October 1867.
On the 28th September I addressed a letter to you in reference to the refusal of No. 527. the Bombay Government to charter iron sailing ships as transports for the Abyssinian expedition.

I have again communications from some merchants in Liverpool, who inform me that their correspondents at Bombay telegraph to them that the Government there are still refusing to take up iron vessels, and they have requested me again to communicate with you, and ask if any decision has been come to in reference to the letter I addressed to you on the 28th of September.

I again beg to call your attention to the decision that was come to on the subject of iron built vessels by the India Board in 1862, and also to the fact that, after full consideration of the comparative merits of iron and wood, the five Indian troop ships lately built for the Indian relief service have been constructed of iron.

I am, &c.,

JOHN LAIRD.

No. 748.

The Consul at Smyrna to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 15.)

My Lord,

Smyrna, October 4, 1867.

With reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the officers employed in the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition have lately arrived at Smyrna, and at their request I have arranged a contract for 500 mules at a moderate price.

I have the honour to state that 3,000 mules might be obtained within this district, also a large amount of cattle, and most of the objects for an expedition of this nature can be easily procured.

I have, &c.,

ROB. WM. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 749.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

Military, No. 287.

Sir,

India Office, 15th October 1867.

In continuation of my Despatch, dated the 30th of September 1867, No. 281, I forward to you a copy of a Despatch which has been this day addressed to the Government of Bombay, respecting the further measures which have been taken in this country in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 750.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 129.

Sir,

India Office, 15th October 1867.

With the view of taking every possible precaution against fever among the troops employed in the Abyssinian expedition, I have directed that, in addition to the medicines in ordinary use, a supply of 500 bottles of Warburg's fever drops be sent for the use of the force.

2. I am aware that, although this is a secret medicine, it has been largely used of late years in many parts of India, and I understand that a supply has been recently ordered by the Admiralty for the hospital in Jamaica.

3. It appears to me desirable to take advantage of this opportunity of ascertaining the value of the "Drops" in fever cases; and I request that a special report may be called for from the Principal Superintendent of the Medical Department of the Abyssinian expedition respecting the efficacy of the medicine.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 751.

The Rev. K. M. PHIN to the Secretary of State for India.

The Manse, Galashiels, N.B.,

15th October 1867.

Sir, I am instructed by the Committee of the Church of Scotland for watching over the religious interests of Her Majesty's Presbyterian soldiers and sailors, to inform you that they have received strong representations of the extreme importance of a Presbyterian Chaplain being attached to the Abyssinian expedition. The Committee have been assured that the number of Presbyterians in the forces sent from India is likely to be very great, and that they will suffer serious injury, and be treated much less favourably than their Episcopalian fellow soldiers, if no special provision be made for their spiritual instruction and comfort. The Committee earnestly trust that this grievance will not be permitted to exist, and that Her Majesty's Indian Government will send a Presbyterian Chaplain with the Abyssinian expedition.

If the Indian Government have no available Presbyterian Chaplain, the Committee will be glad to send one of the officiating chaplains on their staff, in the event of his being sanctioned and paid as a temporary chaplain.

I have, &c.,

K. M. PHIN Chairman of the Church of
Scotland's Committee on Army and
Navy Chaplains.

No. 752.

The Principal Transport Officer in Egypt to the Military Secretary, India Office.
received October 15th, 1867.

British Transport Office,
Alexandria, 4th October 1867.

Sir, I beg to acquaint you that I have found it necessary to draw this day upon the Right Honourable the Secretary of State in Council of India, by Bill No. 1, dated 30th September 1867, in favour of the Bank of Egypt, for the sum of one hundred pounds, for payment of salaries and contingent expenses in connexion with the transport of stores through Egypt for the Abyssinian expedition. Actual amount received was 98*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, and for which I shall forward separate cash accounts in a day or two to you.

I am, &c.,

JAMES B. WILLOUGHBY, Captain, R.N.

No. 753.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Horse Guards, 16th October 1867.

Sir, Having had the honour to lay before the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief your letter of the 11th instant, stating that, as there is reason to think that the troop ship of the 21st of November will not enable the party of telegraphers, &c., to arrive at the scene of operations in Abyssinia as early as is desirable, Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote proposes that the various detachments of Engineers selected for the several duties of telegraphing, signalling, photographing, and fixing the tube wells, should be sent to Egypt by a suitable steam transport required to convey the telegraph and other stores, I am directed, in reply, to request you will acquaint Sir Stafford Northcote that His Royal Highness concurs in the advisability of this arrangement, and has caused instructions to be issued, with a view to the detachments in question being prepared to embark in the steam transport above alluded to.

I have, &c.,

W. F. FORSTER.

No. 754.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 16th October 1867.

No. 736.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for the information of the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, a copy of a letter which has been received from the Government of Bombay respecting the composition of the force which is to be sent to Abyssinia, and I am desired to request that the enclosures, which are transmitted in original, may be returned as soon as is convenient to His Royal Highness, no other copy having yet been received from India.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary

No. 755.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 16th October 1867.

No. 593.

With further reference to your letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request that you will be so good as to state whether portfires and sticks should be issued with the 500 $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. signal rockets which are required for the equipment of the field telegraph train for Abyssinia. Should it be necessary for these articles to be supplied, I am to request that the number required may be given.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 756.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 16th, 1867.

Nos. 483,
569, and 735.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you the accompanying copies of correspondence with Mr. T. Plowden, brother of Her Majesty's late Consul in Abyssinia; and I am to request that you will move Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote to inform Lord Stanley whether he sees any objection to the letter which Mr. Plowden proposes to address to King Theodore.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 757.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the London Society for promoting Christianity amongst the Jews.

Sir,

India Office, 16th October 1867.

See No. 697.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that he may be informed whether copies of "A short description of the Falasha and Kamants in Abyssinia," with a vocabulary of the Falasha language, composed by Mr. Flad and edited by Dr. Krapf, are to be obtained from your society, and, if so, what number of copies can be supplied to this Office, and at what price.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 758.

The Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 16th October 1867.

No. 553.

With reference to your letter of the 1st instant to the Under Secretary of State for War, requesting to be furnished with the names of the Medical Officers required for

service in Abyssinia, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to request that, if it be intended to send these officers to Egypt in any vessel conveying troops, I may receive timely notice thereof, so that orders may be given for their embarkation.

A list of the names of these Medical Officers has been forwarded to this Department by the Military Secretary. Enclosure 3
in No. 725.

I have, &c.,

H. H. CLIFFORD, Colonel,
Assistant for Quartermaster-General.

No. 759.

The Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Horse Guards, 16th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 11th instant, addressed to the Military Secretary, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to request you to favour me with the earliest possible information respecting the date on which the steam vessel it is proposed to engage will be ready to receive the detachment of Royal Engineers intended for service in Abyssinia. No. 699.

The Military Secretary has been informed this day that the detachments will be ready to embark when conveyance is provided, and that they could proceed in the vessel alluded to, in which it is presumed there will of course be suitable accommodation for them.

I have, &c.,

H. H. CLIFFORD, Colonel,
Assistant for Quartermaster-General.

No. 760.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir, India Office, 16th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and, in reply, to request that his thanks may be conveyed to General Petapoff for the offer made by him to assist in the purchase of Cossack horses for the use of the force which is about to proceed to Abyssinia. No. 714.

2. Considering, however, the difficulty attendant on the transport of the animals by way of the Black Sea at this season of the year, and the facilities which are offered in Turkey and Egypt for the collection of pack-horses, Sir Stafford Northcote does not think it desirable that any measures should be adopted for obtaining horses from Russia.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 761.

Telegram from the Consul-General at Cairo to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, October 16th, 1867.

I have just received the following intelligence from Colonel Merewether, dated off Zoolà, Annesley Bay, October 8th:—

“The landing place for the force has been fixed in Annesley Bay at a point $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Zoolà. Letters received from Magdala dated 7th September, and Debra Tabor 11th August, report captives all well, no change in their condition, and the King continuing his course of frightful cruelty.”

No. 762.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
October 16th, 1867.

Sailed, first half of advanced brigade :—

3d Native Cavalry	-	-	-	414
Mountain train	-	-	-	99
Native Infantry	-	-	-	722
Sappers	-	-	-	247
Transport Corps	-	-	-	448
Commissariat	-	-	-	224
Followers	-	-	-	784
Total	-	-	-	<u>2,938</u>
Horses and mules	-	-	-	928

Remainder of brigade sails from Kurrachee, November 2d :—

33d Queen's.
27th Belooch Regiment, Native Infantry ; and
Battery, Horse Artillery.

No. 763.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 16th October 1867.

No. 629.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that he approves of the issue of serge clothing and helmets for the use of a detachment of the 2d Division, Depôt Brigade, Royal Artillery, ordered to proceed on service in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 764.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 16th October 1867.

No. 643.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of the issue of four additional puggarees for a detachment of the Military Train, which embarked in the transports "Bolivar" and "Venetia" for service in the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 765.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

Sir,

India Office, 16th October 1867.

No. 673.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, reporting the circumstances which render it unadvisable to transport the stores for the Abyssinian expedition to Suez by way of the Canal, and the measures which you have adopted to facilitate their conveyance through Egypt ; and I am desired to acquaint you, in reply, that your proceedings are approved.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 766.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

India Office, 16th October 1867.

Lord Clinton presents his compliments to Mr. Hammond, and begs to forward the enclosed letter from Lord Stanley to King Theodore, which has been returned to England by the Political Resident at Aden, the letter from his Lordship forwarded to this Office on the 18th September being substituted for that now transmitted.

See No. 729

Enclosure in No. 408.

No. 767.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 16th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that the Director General of Stores for this Office will be desired to forward a demand for 24 boxes of the requisite pattern for such of the double shells which are to be provided for special use against intrenchments, as will be conveyed to Egypt with the batteries proceeding to Abyssinia.

No. 724.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 768.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 16th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that, a copy of Colonel Blane's letter of the 7th, and of two telegrams received from him dated the 9th and 10th of October, having been forwarded to this Office from the Horse Guards, the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has been informed that, considering the difficulty of obtaining transport by way of the Black Sea at this season of the year, and the facilities offered in Turkey and Egypt for the collection of pack-horses, Sir Stafford Northcote does not think it desirable to accept the offer of General Petapoff to assist in the purchase of Cossack horses for the Abyssinian expedition.

Nos. 663,
714, and
Encl. in No.
730.
No. 760.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 769.

The Financial Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

India Office, 16th October 1867.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of your letter, dated the 3d instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward herewith three specimens of Maria Theresa dollars for assay.

No. 531.

I have, &c.,

T. L. SECCOMBE,
Financial Secretary.

No. 770.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 16th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, upon the requisition of the Assistant Adjutant-General Royal Engineers, orders have been given for the issue of 23 rattan helmets, for service of men under orders for Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 771.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

India Office,

16th October 1867.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, forwarding, for consideration, copy of a letter from the Horse Guards on the subject of the better organization of the detachments which have been detailed for the above duties, in which it is observed that His Royal Highness is of opinion that it would be better for the interests of the public service, and the maintenance of discipline, &c., that the detachments of Royal Engineers now under orders for the duties in question should be amalgamated into a company of reduced strength, under the command of a Captain of the Corps (well acquainted with its financial system and interior economy) and two Lieutenants, instead of proceeding, as now intended, in a series of unconnected detachments, each commanded by a Subaltern.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that Sir Stafford Northcote fully concurs in the opinion expressed by His Royal Highness as to the importance of providing for the military organization of the several parties of Royal Engineers selected for service in Abyssinia.

3. In requesting that certain small parties of Royal Engineers might be selected and detailed for special duties in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition, Sir Stafford Northcote was quite prepared to leave the arrangements connected with the military organization to His Royal Highness.

4. It is proposed, however, to employ the whole of these men on the above duties under the general direction of Officers who have been specially appointed for that purpose. From the nature of their duties, it is evident that the detachments must be broken up and widely scattered during the whole of the campaign in small detached parties, and the duties of the Regimental Officer in command of them, if senior in army rank to the Heads of the several Departments, must necessarily be confined to the preparation of returns, revision, and settlement of pay claims, &c.

5. Lieutenant St. John has been specially selected, in consequence of his practical experience in similar duty in Persia, to the post of Superintendent of the Telegraph Department with the force; and the executive staff employed under his supervision will consist not merely of the detachment ordered from this country, but of Officers and men from India.

6. Lieutenant Le Messurier, being about to return to his duty in the Bombay Presidency, has been considered available and well qualified for the duty of directing the labours of any parties employed with the tube wells now under provision.

7. It was not intended that either of these Officers should be attached regimentally to the parties of Royal Engineers on this occasion, but that, as far as matters of mere regimental routine are concerned, the men should be under their own Officers, Lieutenants Morgan and Puzey.

8. Should His Royal Highness object to so large a party being placed regimentally under a Subaltern, Sir Stafford Northcote will not object to cancel the demand for Non-commissioned Officers and men for the tube wells, as he is aware that Sir Robert Napier will have under his command a large force of Sappers, Pioneers, and coolies, any of whom might soon be instructed in the use of these implements; on the other hand, although in selecting the very few Officers to be sent from this country Sir Stafford Northcote has been very desirous of avoiding all interference with Sir Robert Napier's arrangements, by confining the selection to Officers in the Subaltern grade, nevertheless, should His Royal Highness consider that, under any circumstances, it will be essential to the regimental well-being of the men that they should be nominally under the command of a Captain, Sir Stafford Northcote will offer no objection, upon the understanding that the purpose for which the Officer selected for command and sent from this country is clearly explained to him, and that, subject to the orders of Sir Robert Napier, no interference is to take place with the duties which have been entrusted to Lieutenants St. John and Le Messurier, viz., the direction and control of the operations of the Officers and men employed in the Telegraphic, Signal, and Photographic Departments, and in the use of the tube wells.

9. I am instructed to add that, in nominating the above Officers to special posts in connexion with the expedition, Sir Stafford Northcote understands that the actual employment of these Officers in the field will rest with Sir Robert Napier.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 772.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Ambassador at St. Petersburg.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 17, 1867.

I enclose for your Excellency's information, and for communication to Colonel Blane, the accompanying copy of a letter from the India Office on the subject of the proposed purchase of Cossack horses for the Abyssinian expedition referred to in the enclosures in your despatch of the 9th instant. No. 768. No. 730.

I am, &c.,

STANLEY.

No. 773.

The Vice-Consul at Tripoli (on leave in England), to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord, Newton Bank, near Chester, October 17, 1867.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, being a connection of Captain Charles Duncan Cameron, now prisoner in Abyssinia, and having accompanied that gentleman to Massowah, and while there travelled on the frontier in the direction of Bogos and the surrounding district, say 100 miles from the seaboard, and having lately during my stay in England seen most contradictory and erroneous statements in the newspapers relative to that country and the approaches to the interior, I have the honour humbly to observe that, if your Lordship thinks I could give any information that might be of service to Her Majesty's Government, I should only be too happy to do so.

I have, &c.,

E. H. WALKER.

No. 774.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Chief Cashier of the Bank of England.

Sir, India Office, 17th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, to request that you will make arrangements for the early transmission of 50,000 sovereigns to the Political Resident at Aden, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

CLINTON.

No. 775.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir, India Office, 17th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you, that the authorities at the Bank of England have been requested to forward you 50,000 sovereigns for the use of the Abyssinian expedition. No. 774.

The Government of Bombay have been informed of this remittance.

I am, &c.,

CLINTON.

No. 776.

The Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Bank of England, 17th October 1867.

No. 662.

Referring to my letter of the 9th instant, I am directed to acquaint you that a further amount of 136,000 Maria Theresa dollars has been shipped by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer of the 12th instant, to Captain Johnson.

The total amount of dollars shipped to this date is 540,000, of which I have now to enclose the bills of lading, and detailed accounts of the purchases and all the charges, amounting to 115,287*l.* 4*s.*, the balance of which sum, say 29,901*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, was charged to the drawing account of the Secretary of State in Council of India yesterday, and was paid to Mr. Edlmann, whom the Governors have entrusted with the management of this transaction.

The amount of invoice represents cash, 22d September, so that there may be a small settlement of interest yet to be made, which cannot, however, materially affect the price of the dollar.

You will observe that the cost of the dollars without any charges, is, as nearly as possible, 4*s.* 2½*d.* each, and with charges about 4*s.* 3¼*d.*, on board ship at Trieste. But the expenses of freight, insurance, packages, &c., &c., would occur, in a similar manner, on sovereigns, or any other money used for the service.

I am, &c.,

F. MAY,

Deputy Chief Cashier.

Enclosure 1 in No. 776.

Memorandum by Mr. EDLMANN.

MEMORANDUM of Delivery and Payment of 540,000 Maria Theresa Dollars bought in Vienna and shipped to Alexandria, *viâ* Trieste.

Number of Dollars.	Date of Delivery.	Contract Price.	Amount paid.
	1867.	Fl. k.	Fl.
6,400	28th August -	2 62	16,768
5,000	2d September -	2 63	13,150
2,000	9th " -	2 60	5,200
5,500	9th " -	2 63	14,465
50,000	9th " -	2 61	130,500
20,000	10th " -	2 63	52,600
40,000	12th " -	2 61	104,400
10,000	13th " -	2 61	26,100
11,000	13th " -	2 61½	28,765
14,000	16th " -	2 61½	36,610
25,000	17th " -	2 61½	65,375
19,500	18th " -	2 63	51,285
20,500	18th " -	2 61	53,505
3,000	20th " -	2 61	7,830
13,000	21st " -	2 62	34,060
23,500	21st " -	2 61	61,335
27,000	24th " -	2 62	70,740
23,000	26th " -	2 62	60,260
35,000	28th " -	2 61	91,350
3,000	28th " -	2 63	7,890
15,000	28th " -	2 62	39,300
12,000	30th " -	2 62	31,440
28,000	30th " -	2 61½	73,220
40,000	1st October -	2 61½	104,600
20,000	2d " -	2 61½	52,300
7,000	3d " -	2 61½	18,305
3,000	3d " -	2 61	7,830
13,500	3d " -	2 62	35,370
26,000	5th " -	2 62	68,120
19,100	7th " -	2 62	50,042
540,000			Fl. 1,412,715

Due, by average date, 22d September.

London, 16th October 1867.

JOS. EDLMANN.

Enclosure 2 in No. 776.

Invoice.

Invoice of 540,000 Maria Theresa dollars, bought in Vienna and shipped from thence, *via* Trieste, per Austrian Lloyd's steamers to Alexandria, to the consignment of Captain Henry Johnson, Agent of the East Indian Government there, viz :—

270 casks, each of 2,000 dollars, containing in all 540,000 pieces, purchased at following prices,—

	Fl. k.		Fl. k.
2,000 dollars at 2 60 each	- - - - -		5,200 00
185,000 „ „ 2 61 „	- - - - -		482,850 00
145,000 „ „ 2 61½ „	- - - - -		379,175 00
155,000 „ „ 2 62 „	- - - - -		406,100 00
53,000 „ „ 2 63 „	- - - - -		139,390 00
<u>540,000</u>		Prime cost - -	<u>Fl. 1,412,715 00</u>

Due, by average date, 22d September, as per separate note herewith.

Prime cost, Fl. 1,412,715, at exchanges averaging Fl. 124. 40 per 100l., gives 113,562l. 6s., making the cost per dollar 4s. 2d. 47/100ths.

Charges in Vienna :

1 per cent. bullion and bill brokerage in Vienna	-	Fl. 1,412	71
Railway carriage to, and charges at, Trieste	- - -	3,893	18
270 casks at Fl. 2 each	- - -	540	00
Cooperage, at 15 kreuzers per cask	- - -	40	50
Telegrams, stamps on drafts on London, shipping, packing, and sundry small expenses, and cost of 6 specimens	-	666	10
Freight to Alexandria, paid at Trieste, on first shipment of 30 casks	- - - - -	388	34
		<u>6,940</u>	<u>83</u>
		<u>Fl. 1,419,655</u>	<u>83</u>

Paid for by drafts from and remittances to Vienna, at short exchanges, £ s. d.
averaging Fl. 124. 40 per 100l. sterling, gives - - - 1,14,120 4 10

Charges in London :

Telegrams, bill brokerage on remittances, postages, &c., &c.	- -	25	10	0
		<u>114,145</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>
Commission, 1 per cent.	- - - - -	1,141	9	2
		<u>£115,287</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>

Total cost, exclusive of freight and insurance (except on first 30 barrels), of 540,000 dollars, due, by average date, 22d September - - - £115,287 4 0

Making the cost per dollar, on board at Trieste, 4s. 3d. 24/100ths.

JOS. EDLMANN.

London, 16th October 1867.

No. 777.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir, India Office, 17th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that it is No. 758. intended to send the medical officers required for the Abyssinian expedition, to Egypt, in the same vessel which will take the detachments of the Royal Engineers.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 778.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Mr. LAIRD, M.P., and to the Secretaries of the Shipowners' Association at Liverpool.

Sir (Gentlemen),

India Office, 17th October 1867.

Nos. 527,
562, and 747.
No. 745.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 28th ultimo and 15th instant, (2d instant,) and to acquaint you in reply, that a communication has been made to the Government of Bombay by telegraph, respecting the alleged preference of wooden over iron vessels for transports for the Abyssinian expedition, and that a despatch on the subject will be also forwarded to that Government.

See Nos. 658
and 746.

2. The delay in replying to your letter has been occasioned by the necessity of awaiting an answer to a letter which had been written to the Admiralty, regarding the practice adopted in this country.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 779.

The Assistant Director of Ordnance to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Pall Mall, 17th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit 25 copies of a paper on the mountain equipment for Abyssinia, which has been drawn up by Colonel Wray, C.B. The President of the Ordnance Select Committee has suggested that copies should be sent out by the mail of to-morrow.

I am, &c.,

H. DYER, Major-General,
for Director of Ordnance.

P.S. 25 copies have been sent to the Horse Guards for the Artillery Officers who are going out in charge of the guns.

Enclosure in No. 779.

Memorandum on the 7-pounder Mountain Equipment prepared for Special Service in Abyssinia.

Guns.

Six guns per battery. * Designed in the Royal Gun Factory (Colonel F. Campbell, R.A., Superintendent). Manufactured within six weeks of the date of order, from steel blocks, furnished at four days' notice, by Messrs. Frith & Co., Sheffield.

General description,	Cwt. qr. lbs.		
Average weight	-	1	1 6
Preponderance	-	0	0 5
Total length	-	-	29 inches.
Length of bore	-	24	"
Length of rifling	-	22	"
Calibre	-	3	"
Number of grooves	-	3.	
Rifling	{ Twist uniform, 1 in 20 calibres, or 60 inches. French system (angular grooves).		

Sighting.

The gun is sighted on one side only.

Breach sight.—A plain rectangular steel bar, without deflecting arrangement, inclined at an angle of 3° to a vertical plane passing through the axis of the piece.

Fore sight.—Steel, screwed in, having a hog-back leaf.*

* N.B. The sights should be removed and carried in the implement boxes when immediate action is not anticipated.

The necessary tools for replacing broken sights are in the miscellaneous store box.

Carriages.

Designed in the Royal Carriage Department (Colonel H. Clerk, R.A., Superintendent).

Steel, bracket trail, with iron axle-tree and wooden bed.
Wheels of Indian wood, known as "Pedowk" (well seasoned, from having been in China). Ring description.
tires.

							Ft.	In.
Height to centre of gun	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Track of wheels	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Length	{	Carriage	{ with wheels	-	-	-	4	10
			{ without ditto	-	-	-	4	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Axle-tree	-	-	-	-	2	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Angle of trail	-	-	-	-	-	-	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	°
Weight	{	Carriage with check ropes	-	-	-	-	108	lbs.
		Elevating screw	-	-	-	-	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
		Wheels	-	-	-	-	78	"
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	192 $\frac{3}{4}$	"

2 spare carriages -
6 spare wheels - } with the reserve.

Recoil very sharp, with 6 oz. F. G. powder, but brought within reasonable limits by lashing the Recoil.
wheels. Ropes and toggles for the purpose are attached to the end of the trail.

The carriage has been designed for either direct or vertical fire; in the former case the tangent Direct fire.
scale gives an elevation of 15°. Vertical fire.

When used as a mortar the elevating screw is removed; the gun is then laid direct on the object, and lowered on the bed to a fixed elevation of 34°, on which the range table is based. Coins and quadrants with the double shell equipment. Maximum depression obtainable 20°.

When double shells are used for bombarding, and time admits, it is proposed, in order to lighten Double shells.
the strain on the axle and wheels, to fight the gun on the ground. In a timber country, a few young trees cut down and lashed together would check the recoil.

Ammunition Boxes.

These have been prepared on the plan known as the "pyramid pattern," suggested by Captain General
D. Cameron, R.A., and recommended in Sir W. Mansfield's report of 31st March 1867 for general description.
adoption.

The load consists of 5 small boxes, viz., 4 (containing 5 rounds each) fitting flatly and close to the animal's sides, and a fifth box with cartridges and fuzes, on the top of the saddle.

Two smaller boxes, containing fuze implements, &c., accompany the gun on its saddle.

This method of packing offers the following advantages over the old system of carrying the ammunition and small stores in long oblong boxes:—

- 1st. It reduces the width of the load to a minimum.
- 2d. In the case of the men having to carry the loads to take up a difficult position, it offers every facility, for no box is so large as not to be carried by a man in one hand, with ease and comfort to himself,—no slight advantage on a precipitous mountain side.

The boxes are somewhat heavier than in the 6-pounder Armstrong Battery at Darjeeling, the projectiles in the present equipment, and the protection required for studded shot, necessitating a stronger construction. They are of cedar (as a precaution against white ants), covered inside and out with waterproof canvas, the fibre laid against the grain and very strongly clamped, provided throughout with spring locks, one key opening any box in the battery. From General
Sir W. Mansfield's report.

		Common Shell.	Shrapnel.	Case.	Total.	
Each box contains	-	2	2	1	5	Proportion of projectiles carried with this battery.
Each load	-	8	8	4	20	
Rounds, per gun	-	24	24	12	60	
" battery	-	144	144	72	360	

Portable Forge, vide Plate.

One to each battery of the service pattern introduced in 1855.

As steel carriages are for the first time taking the field, these forges are considered indispensable for executing ordinary repairs, irrespective of their use with the smiths.

N.B. It is presumed that arrangements will be made in India for farriers, as also for carrying Farriers.
supplies of shoes and charcoal, should it be intended to shoe the mules in Abyssinia.

Miscellaneous Store Boxes.

One set per battery, of 2 boxes, containing all tools necessary for ordinary repairs, both to carriages and pack saddles, with a small quantity of material for trifling repairs; 6 spare washers, a set of transom bolts, a spare axle, 2 pipe boxes, and 2 hatchets, are also included in this load.

Implements
for clearing
ground.

On the board are the following implements for clearing away obstructions, levelling ground, or felling small trees:—

- 2 pickaxes.
- 2 billhooks.
- 1 miner's shovel.
- 1 hand saw.

Ammunition. Projectiles.

1,000 rounds per gun (including reserves).

1,000 double shell.

Common shell.

Common shell to be used on all ordinary occasions. Sent out filled and plugged.

Double shell.

The double shell is intended as a substitute in vertical firing for the 12 lb. shells used with 4½" mortars on the old system. They are packed empty in reserve boxes (four in each), weighing, with box, about 75 lbs., and will be added to the battery or kept in reserve according to circumstances, and the nature of the service expected.* The bursting charge of these shells is 1 lb.

Shrapnel.

Boxer's shrapnel filled and plugged. Should be restricted to 600 yards, up to which distance they are very effective.

Case.

Common case; good to 200 yards.

Fuzes.

Boxer's wood time fuzes, 7-pounder.

5" mealed powder fuze for shrapnel.

10" for common shell.

15" for double shell.

Acting on
percussion.
Charges.

If any difficulty occur in lighting, a small piece of quick match should be tied round the head of the fuze.

These fuzes act percussively at short ranges, if fired direct against earthworks.

Service charge, 6 oz., F.G.

Charge for vertical fire, 3 oz., F.G.

A copper measure will be found in the implement boxes for reducing charges either for mortar practice or dropping shells behind parapets.

*Mountain Artillery Pack-saddles.**For Gun.*

The guns and carriages are carried on saddles designed in the Royal Carriage Department.

They are constructed of well-seasoned walnut wood. Weight, 48 lbs. 8 oz., stripped.

The length of the gun in the present instance (29 inches) admits of its being carried across the mule without projecting, and, as the top weight is thus considerably reduced, and the load is the narrowest in the battery, this plan has been adopted.

Side-arms.

Two sponges, one shaft, and one bearer are on the gun saddle; also, two small boxes with shell and fuze implements.

For Carriage.

The carriage and its wheels ride easily on a single saddle.

Two steel arms (removable at will) are attached to the sides of the saddle to take the wheels, which are then secured by the lynch pins and washers. No lashing is necessary beyond the wantie over-all.

Traces.

Six saddles carry each a light trace to be used for draught or as drag ropes, and every load in the battery has its tarpaulin 6 ft. × 4 ft.

Tarpaulin.

Grease.

A small box of grease is attached to each carriage between the brackets.

Otago pattern.

26 Otago pattern pack-saddles per battery, carrying ammunition, forge, rockets, and miscellaneous store boxes.

Origin and
general de-
scription.

This saddle was first brought to notice in 1864 by Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, C.B., and from the experience gained during 2½ years' hard service in New Zealand, and from subsequent trials at Aldershot, a pattern was sealed by the Ordnance Select Committee, 9th July 1866, for general commissariat purposes.

Mr. Bailey's evidence, and that of other Officers who have used it in the field, is conclusive as to its perfect adaptability of the requirements of the service, and it is worthy of note that no single instance of sore back is recorded amongst the 600 horses in use with the commissariat in the New Zealand campaign.

General
supply to the
Abyssinian
Force.

5,000 of these saddles are to accompany the Abyssinian expedition, weight stripped, 25 to 27 lbs. One of the most important features in their construction consists in their being to a certain extent rideable, stirrups being attached to the whole of them.

For the campaign about to open they seem peculiarly well suited, it being more than probable that the tactics in Abyssinia will assimilate to those carried on at the close of the Indian Mutiny, when

* Two of these shells on bursting divided into 47 and 48 pieces respectively.

flying columns of European Infantry on camels pushed rapidly over large tracts of country, which it would have taken days to traverse on foot.

This advantage has not been overlooked in preparing the present mountain equipment, and means have been taken to enable these batteries to take part in such operations by travelling the guns on their carriages where the ground is favourable.

Through the ingenuity of the Carriage Department, the guns have been made to travel in pairs, thus getting over altogether the difficulty which has hitherto existed of limbering up each carriage to a heavy pair of shafts, which in themselves were such an incumbrance to a mountain train when packed on mules, and so difficult to carry in the hills, that in some instances they have been left at the nearest dépôt.*

Increased mobility to mountain batteries. The shaft system.

It is clear that, on coming to a level country, and working the battery in draught, nine mules, exclusive of three required for the shafts, become available for riding.

After exchanging the gun saddles for those of the Otago pattern on the ammunition mules, three of the mounted men take the shaft mules in hand or hook in tandem fashion, if the ground is heavy or difficult, the remaining six attending the column of ammunition mules. For emergencies, the addition of the requisite number of mules and saddles from the commissariat would enable every man to ride and keep up with any body of troops during a march of 40 or 50 miles.

Travelling and working in the plains as a field battery.

It is merely necessary to add, that the locking angle is about the same as in a field carriage, and that, although the ash shafts, prepared in two pieces, appear quite strong enough for such light guns, they would be greatly strengthened by being bound with raw hide whenever the batteries fairly take the field.

It is further proposed to have three pairs of bamboo shafts prepared for each of the batteries in Bombay, to be carried, on service, by coolies, and used as bearers for passing the guns or other heavy portions of the equipment over difficult places.

Bamboo shafts.

N.B.—Should the pads of the saddles get out of order, they can be filled from behind with dry grass, leaves, or straw, the hair stuffing being kept next the mule's back. No collar-maker proceeds from England.

Stuffing pads.

25 iron cradles per battery for carrying guns and carriages on the Otago saddle will be sent with the equipment.

They have been manufactured at the last moment at the suggestion of Assistant Commissary-General Bailey, C.B., as offering the following advantages over wooden saddles:—

- 1st. They possess additional strength.
- 2d. The load is reduced in weight by 10 or 12 lbs., and the top weight decreased by lowering the load on the animal's back.
- 3d. They are more easily repaired.
- 4th. They appear better adapted for a tropical climate than wooden saddles.
- 5th. As they can be fitted to any store or commissariat saddle in use with the force, no necessity exists for carrying spare pack-saddles with the mountain train, a few cradles sufficing.

Weight of the cradle, 14 lbs., with arms.

Rockets.

Carried in panniers on Otago saddles.

120 6-pounder Hale's war rockets with two rocket machines per battery.

1. They are fired with special friction tubes and lanyard, and the men should be instructed to be careful in firing, as the machine is liable to tilt when working on very hard ground or rock if violently jerked.

Proportion.

A box with lanyards and tubes is strapped to the saddle.

2. The friction tube is adjusted in any one of the escape holes in rear of the rocket, care being taken that the tube is placed well home before the lanyard is pulled.

In the event of the special tube rocket being insufficient or mislaid, the gun friction rockets can be adapted.

N.B.—Rockets should not be fired with less elevation than 5°.

From 7° to 10° fair practice is obtained.

They should not as a rule be used in long grass or dry jungle in the face of the wind, for various reasons.

No. 780.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 17th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, stating that a telegram had been received from the Government of Bombay, requesting that one Staff Veterinary Surgeon and three

No. 644.

* Arrangement of shafts:—

A screw bolt with eye passes through the breast of each carriage, forming a limbering loop. The trail of one carriage is then attached by means of a strong strap to the loop of the other.

Light jointed shafts, passing outside the wheels of the front carriage, are secured in the usual method to the axle-arms. The bearer, tightly lashed across the trail of the front carriage, keeps the shafts rigid.

Veterinary Surgeons might be sent to Abyssinia, to be at Sir Robert Napier's disposal.

In reply, I am to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that it has occurred to Sir John Pakington that, instead of sending out additional Veterinary Surgeons, the demand of the Government of Bombay might be met from among those Veterinaries who are now employed in examining and taking charge of the mules purchased in Spain and elsewhere for this expedition; and, His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief having expressed his concurrence in this suggestion, the Officer in charge at Alexandria (Colonel Clark Kennedy) will be instructed to select the number of Veterinary Surgeons required for service in Abyssinia, so soon as the delivery of the mules at Alexandria by the transports shall enable him to detach these Officers on this further special duty.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 781.

The Secretary of the London Society for promoting Christianity amongst the Jews to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 16, Lincoln's Inn Fields, October 17th, 1867.

No. 757.

In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inform you that we have for disposal 500 copies of "A short Description of the Falasha and Kamants in Abyssinia," &c., by Mr. Flad, which we are selling at 1s. per copy, stitched, but which we can supply to the India Office at a deduction of 25 per cent., if taken in large numbers,—say, 100 copies at a time.

As they are in sheets, except about 150 copies, we should require a couple of days notice to have any large number stitched.

I have, &c.,
HENRY L. LAYARD.
Secretary.

No. 782.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 17th, 1867.

At what date do you wish Officers of British and Bombay Medical Staff to be at Suez?

No. 783.

The Secretary of the Zoological Society of London to the Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 11, Hanover Square, 17th October 1867.

The Council of the Zoological Society of London, having been informed that no zoologist has yet been nominated on the scientific staff appointed to accompany the Abyssinian expedition, venture to request your kind attention to this subject.

The Council are informed that a geographer has been selected to join the Abyssinian expedition from England, and that a botanical collector and a geologist have been appointed to accompany it by the authorities at Bombay.

The Council beg leave to point out that the country proposed to be traversed by the expedition is not less interesting in a zoological point of view than as regards its geology and botany, and is equally likely to furnish new and valuable specimens for the first of these sciences as for the two last.

From the varying altitudes of different districts of Abyssinia, it necessarily follows that its zoology should be rich and varied. Such, in fact, from the explorations already made in that country, is well known to be the case, and although it cannot be expected that, during such an expedition as is now in contemplation, anything like a complete zoological survey of the country can be made, there can be no doubt that an enterprising and active collector will have ample opportunities of amassing specimens,

and acquiring information by which our knowledge of the natural productions of this little known land may be materially increased.

As it is understood that the appointment of a scientific corps has been resolved upon, it would seem that the addition of a single individual to it can neither add materially to the expense, nor greatly increase the difficulties of making the necessary arrangements. At the same time it must be allowed that, while so important a branch of science as zoology is unrepresented, no scientific survey of the country can be deemed to be in any way complete.

The Council of the Zoological Society of London, as representatives of an association formed expressly for the advancement of zoological science, feel that it is incumbent upon them to urge the claims of that science when, as in the present instance, they appear to be in danger of being overlooked.

The Council will learn with great satisfaction that this apparent oversight has been corrected, and that it has been determined to appoint a properly qualified person to attend the Abyssinian expedition in the capacity of zoologist.

Should this course be resolved upon, the Council will be happy to lend their assistance in the matter, by drawing up a set of instructions for the information of the person employed on this service, or in any other way that may be thought desirable.

I have, &c.,

P. L. SCLATER,

Secretary to the Society.

No. 784.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 17th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that a copy of No. 725. the papers will be forwarded to the Government of Bombay, with whom, in communication with Sir Robert Napier, the arrangements for the Medical Staff of the Abyssinian expedition must rest.

2. I am desired to add, that a telegraphic message has been sent to Bombay, for No. 782. information as to the date at which it is requisite that these Officers should be at Suez; and I am to inquire whether, if necessary, and if passages can be obtained, any of them would be prepared to go to Egypt by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's vessel which will leave Southampton on the 27th instant.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,

Military Secretary.

No. 785.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 132.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

Para. 1. In the 26th paragraph of my Despatch of the 15th instant, No. 131, No. 738. I acquainted you that I had communicated with the Secretary of State for War respecting the demand for Medical Officers of the British Army, contained in your telegram of the 24th of September, for service with the Abyssinian force.

2. I now forward a copy of a letter from the War Office, dated the 14th instant, with No. 725. its enclosures, containing a nominal list of the Officers selected for this duty, together with a strong recommendation from the Director General of the Army Medical Department, that Dr. Currie, Deputy Inspector-General, now at Bombay, may be placed at the head of the Medical Staff of the force.

3. I have informed Sir John Pakington that the selection of the staff must be left to No. 784. your Government, in communication with Sir Robert Napier.

4. As I mentioned in the Despatch above referred to, I have ordered the Medical Nos. 626 and 627. Officers of the Bombay Army who are in England to hold themselves in readiness to proceed on duty; but several have been pronounced unfit at present for active service.

No. 782. A further communication on this point will be made to you. I have inquired by telegram at what date you wish these Officers to arrive at Suez.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 786.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 18th, 1867.

No. 639.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to inform you, that his Lordship received on the 10th instant a telegram from the Acting British Consul General in Egypt, stating that the Viceroy had offered to send a mission to the King of Abyssinia, with a view to counselling him to release the British subjects and others detained in captivity in that country; and I am to transmit to you, for the information of Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, a copy of a Despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Mr. Reade, in reply, instructing him to inform the Viceroy that His Highness's offer is greatly appreciated by Her Majesty's Government, who would gladly see the success of such a mission.

No. 695.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 787.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 18th October 1867.

In forwarding the accompanying copy of Horse Guards letter, dated 14th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to request that you will cause me to be informed whether the Secretary of State for India in Council concurs in the proposal to send the dubbing to Abyssinia for use by the Infantry during wet weather, and, if so, whether it is to be issued to the India Store Department for shipment.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 787.

The Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 14th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 2d instant, stating that there is a remainder in store since the Crimean War of 1,000 pounds of dubbing, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that His Royal Highness considers it would be advisable to send the composition to Abyssinia for use by the Infantry during wet weather.

I have, &c.,

R. C. STEWART,

Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General,
for Adjutant-General.

No. 788.

The Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Bank of England, 18th October 1867.

No. 774.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and to inform you that, in compliance with the instructions therein, 50,000 sovereigns have been this day packed and delivered to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for shipment to Aden by the steamer which will leave Southampton on the 20th instant. The bills of lading and account of freight (at the rate of 2 per cent.), &c., will be ready on the 23d instant, and shall be duly forwarded to you.

The drawing account of the Secretary of State for India has been debited to-day 50,000/., and will be debited for the charges so soon as the accounts shall be received.

No insurance has been effected.

I am, &c.,

F. MAY,

Deputy Chief Cashier.

No. 789.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, India Office, 18th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that a vessel will be engaged by this Office for the conveyance of the detachments of Royal Engineers who are proceeding to Suez in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition, and also of the telegraphic stores, &c., which are required to accompany them. No. 739.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 790.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 18th October 1867.

In continuation of my letter of the 11th instant, reporting progress made in the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed memoranda, showing the state and prospects of the depôts for mules and pack-horses to the present date, and also the freight arrangements for the transport of the animals to Alexandria. No. 709.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 790.

Memorandum on the state and prospects of the depôts for Mules and Pack-horses on
18th October 1867.

				In hand.	Contracted for.	Shipped.
Malta -	-	-	-	300	—	—
Gibraltar	-	-	-	1,245	—	—
Alicante	-	-	-	1,032	231	357
Valencia	-	-	-	253	—	247
Brindisi	-	-	-	264	103	233
Beyrout -	-	-	-	50	450	—
Scanderoon	-	-	-	35	—	135
Smyrna -	-	-	-	—	750	—
Total	-	-	-	3,179	1,534	972

To which must be added any further number of mules and pack-horses Colonel Kennedy may be able to obtain in Egypt and the Levant, and also any number, not exceeding 500, which may be still purchased at Barcelona by the party sent back there, on the representation of the British Consul that mules had been collected there on the faith of the advertisements published. If it should be necessary, additional numbers may be obtained in Spain and Italy, but, looking at the distance and prices, it would appear to be advisable to procure any more pack animals which may be required, in Egypt and the Levant.

Enclosure 2 in No. 790.

Memorandum of freight Arrangements to this date, 18th October 1867.

Embarked.

				Mules.
"Bolivar"	-	-	131	from Alicante, 10th October.
"Venetia"	-	-	114	" " 8th "
"Parana"	-	-	247	" Valencia, 12th "
"Empress"	-	-	112	" Alicante, 12th "
Italian Company	-	-	233	" Brindisi, 30th September and 7th and 14th October.
"Orontes"	-	-	135	" Scanderoon, 11th October.

972 actually embarked.

3 C 3

To embark.

	Mules.	
" Coumoundouros "	- 170	to sail on 15th October from Alicante.
" Bretagne "	- 310	left Marseilles for Alicante, 14th October.
" Touraine "	- 310	to leave Marseilles for Alicante, 17th October.
" T. Snowden "	- 300	left for Gibraltar, 10th October.
" Achilles "	- 400	to leave Portsmouth, 20th October.
From Malta	- 300	transport provided from Alexandria.
" Brindisi "	- 367	" " by Italian Company.
To embark	- 2,157	
Add embarked	- 972	
Freight provided for	- 3,129	

There will have still to be removed from Spain and Gibraltar 1,271 mules after all the above transports have loaded. The Admiralty transports, if they can make two trips more within the period required, might carry 1,548, or about the number at present collected, with such addition as may be procured at Barcelona; but, as there is a heavy quarantine at Spanish ports on vessels returning from Alexandria, and as it is very doubtful whether the Admiralty transports could make the two additional trips within the prescribed period, it may be advisable to employ them as much as may be expedient in the Levant, sending any of them not so required to Gibraltar, and employing the best of the freight ships, if their performance is satisfactory, in completing the transport from Gibraltar, and also from the Spanish ports, provided they will undertake the latter at rates not exceeding those now paid to them, to include all delay for quarantine, &c.

No. 791.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that one of the mountain batteries intended for the use of the Abyssinian force was forwarded to Alexandria by the "Serapis" (which sailed on the 16th instant), under the charge of Lieutenant Nolan, Royal Artillery, who is accompanied by Lieutenant Chapman and the ten Non-commissioned Officers of the Royal Artillery detailed for service with these batteries.

2. The two Officers above mentioned have been directed, on their arrival, to place themselves in communication with you, respecting the transport of the guns, &c., to Suez.

3. The second battery will be forwarded by a vessel which is about to be engaged for the transport of the telegraph and other stores, and which will leave England on the 1st of November.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 792.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

No. 718.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that he has been informed by the Director of Transport Services, that "arrangements have been made for one of the smaller rooms in the British Transport Office at Alexandria to be lent to Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., as a temporary office."

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 793.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

No. 784.

With reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that it has been determined to send the Medical Officers required for the Abyssinian expedition to Suez, by the vessel which is

about to be engaged in the transport of the detachments of Royal Engineers and the telegraph and other stores; and I have, therefore, to request that instructions may be given to those Officers to be in readiness to start for Egypt by that vessel, which will sail on the 1st of November.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 794.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant A. LE MESSURIER, R.E.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will place yourself in communication with Mr. Norton, with a view to the careful inspection of the tube wells which are being prepared for use in Abyssinia, in order to ensure the complete fitting of the apparatus. See Enclosure in No. 742.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 795.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 133.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

Para. 1. I learn with much satisfaction, from your telegram of the 16th instant, that a portion of the first brigade has already sailed for Annesley Bay, and that the remainder will probably follow on the 2d November. No. 762.

2. I shall be glad to be informed, as soon as possible, when Sir Robert Napier proposes himself to join the expedition. When he shall have done so, and is in immediate command of the force, it would be right that he should place himself in direct communication with Her Majesty's Government in this country, addressing all reports of his proceedings to me, and forwarding copies of them to your Excellency and to the Government of India. All ordinary reports and returns connected with the troops under his command will of course be transmitted as usual to your Government.

3. Sir Robert Napier will of course, ordinarily, look to India for any supplies or reinforcements of which he may stand in need, and your Excellency will, no doubt, take care that his requisitions are promptly and efficiently met. Any special requisitions which he may find it desirable to make upon this country for munitions of war, &c., will be readily complied with.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 796.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Financial, No. 146.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

I have considered in Council your Financial Letter, dated the 28th August last, No. 17, on the subject of the estimated expenditure in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition, in which you request that 200,000*l.* may be sent to Aden, three-fourths in German crowns, and the remainder in sovereigns. No. 575.

2. Upon the receipt of your telegram of the 4th September, steps were taken for the transmission to Aden of 100,000*l.* in "Maria Theresa" dollars; and, as no reply was received to my telegram of the 6th September, inquiring what gold coins were required, arrangements were made for remitting the whole amount in those dollars. No. 204.
No. 239.

3. As, however, it now appears that you desire a certain amount in sovereigns, I have taken measures for remitting, in those coins, a further sum of 50,000*l.*, making a total consignment of 250,000*l.*

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 797.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

No. 753.

I am directed by Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote to acknowledge your letter of the 16th instant, received this day, with enclosures from Mr. Trevor Plowden, and am to state, in reply, for the information of Lord Stanley, that Sir Stafford Northcote sees no objection to the letter which Mr. Plowden proposes to address to King Theodore.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 798.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

I transmit to you, by the steamer which leaves Southampton on the 20th instant, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, 10 copies each of an Amharic dictionary and grammar, by the Rev. C. W. Isenberg, of the Church Missionary Society, to be distributed as Sir R. Napier, or the Officer temporarily in command at Massowah, may direct.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 799.

No. 744.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 18th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote to acknowledge your letter of the 15th instant, respecting Michael Beschir, an Abyssinian living at Geneva, and to state that, as he has so entirely forgotten his native language, and has probably retained but little recollection of localities (owing to the early age at which he left Abyssinia), Sir Stafford Northcote thinks it unadvisable to employ him on the expedition.

I am, &c.,
CLINTON.

No. 800.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
October 18th, 1867.

Sir Robert Napier asks for 1,500 more McGwire's hammocks, to be sent direct to Abyssinia.

No. 801.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India,
October 18th, 1867.

Sir Robert Napier wishes to have two Rocket Batteries, manned by Naval Rocket Brigades; and asks for six 12-pounder tubes for each battery, and 150 rounds per tube, including reserve.

No. 802.

No. 741.
No. 252.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 18th, 1867.

Message of 15th received. Brassey recommends gauge of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet. See enclosure to my Despatch of 30th September. Let me know as soon as you decide, if you want waggons and anything else.

No. 803.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 18th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that, upon the requisition of the Assistant Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers, orders have been given for the issue of the clothing marginally noted, for service of men proceeding to Abyssinia.

2-bar gold good-conduct badge	-	-	-	3
3 " " " "	-	-	-	1
1 " worsted " "	-	-	-	6
2 " " " "	-	-	-	2
Corporals' chevrons	-	-	-	1
2d Corporals' chevrons	-	-	-	2
Lance Corporal "	-	-	-	1
Serge Trousers	-	-	-	pairs 23
" frocks, Sergeants'	-	-	-	1
" " rank and file	-	-	-	22

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 804.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 19th, 1867.

Have you made arrangements for postal communication between England and the expeditionary force? Had we not better send all letters and messages to Suez, and will you arrange for their being forwarded to the force?

No. 805.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Major J. U. CHAMPAIN, Royal Engineers.

Sir,

India Office, 19th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will acquaint me, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, whether portfires and sticks should be issued with the 500 $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. signal rockets which are required for the Abyssinian field telegraph train, and, if so, what number should be furnished.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 806.

The Chief Clerk of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 19th October 1867.

With reference to your letter without date, but received at this Office on the 11th instant, stating that the Secretary of State for India in Council considered it advisable to wait for the opinion of the Government of Bombay, before taking any steps with reference to the formation of a rocket brigade for service in Abyssinia, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, that on the receipt of the letter in question, a telegram was despatched to Commodore Heath, the senior Naval Officer at Bombay, to the following effect, "No steps to be taken at present for rocket brigade."

I am, &c.,

JOHN H. BRIGGS.

No. 807.

The Principal Transport Officer in Egypt to the Military Secretary, India Office
(received October 19th, 1867).

British Transport Office, Alexandria,
11th October 1867.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward my Cash Account for September last, with eight vouchers attached, in connexion with the expenses incurred on account of the Abyssinian expedition; and I hope the arrangements I have made will meet with your approval.

I have, &c.,
JAMES B. WILLOUGHBY,
Captain, Royal Engineers.

No. 808.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir,

India Office, 19th October 1867.

No. 759.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that a steam vessel has been engaged for the conveyance of the detachments of Engineers, and the freight of stores, to Egypt, for the purposes of the Abyssinian expedition.

The date of sailing has been fixed for the 1st of November, and it is proposed that the detachments should embark on that day, from the Royal Arsenal Pier at Woolwich, where the ship will lie to receive on board the ammunition of the second mountain battery.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 809.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 19th, 1867.

No. 304.

With reference to Mr. Hammond's letter of the 11th ultimo, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, the accompanying copies of a further Despatch and of its enclosures from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, on the subject of the Abyssinian expedition and the passage of troops through the Ottoman territory.

I am, &c.,
E. G. EGERTON

Enclosure 1 in No. 809.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Constantinople, October 4th, 1867.

No. 303.

No. 63.

My Despatch of the 3d ultimo will have informed your Lordship that I had executed the instructions conveyed in your letter of August 22d, relative to the notification of war with Abyssinia.

I have now the honour to transmit a copy of the note by which I acquainted the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government, having resolved to resort to force, hoped that facilities would be afforded by the Sultan and the Viceroy of Egypt for the passage of Her Majesty's troops through Ottoman territory.

I have only just received His Highness's answer, herewith enclosed in copy. It is to the effect that His Majesty the Sultan authorizes the passage of British troops through his empire for the purpose specified, and that consequently the Sublime Porte has requested His Highness the Khedive of Egypt to accord all necessary facilities to the force employed on this expedition.

I thought it advisable to communicate to the Viceroy of Egypt, during his residence at Emirghian near this capital, the substance of your Lordship's Despatch, and to explain to him in detail the events which had necessitated this expedition.

His Highness informed me that he had received an official and direct notice on the subject from Her Majesty's Government, and that he had lost no time in ordering his Ministers by the telegraph to do all in their power to facilitate the passage of British troops. He further stated that he would advance his own departure to the 10th September, being an earlier date than that originally named, on the ground that his presence in Egypt would be necessary for accelerating the required preparations.

I have, &c.,
H. P. T. BARRON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 809.
Mr. BARRON to FUAD PASHA.

Sir,

Constantinople, September 1st, 1867.

It will, doubtless, be well known to His Majesty the Sultan that certain of Her Majesty's Officers and other Europeans have, for some time past, been detained in captivity, contrary to justice and the honour of nations, by King Theodore of Abyssinia.

Her Majesty's Government have exhausted all peaceful efforts to procure the release of the captives, and have now resolved to resort to force.

I have now the honour to communicate this fact to Your Highness, and I am further instructed to state that, in order to reach Abyssinia, Her Majesty's Government are led to believe that it will be necessary for their troops to pass through the Ottoman territory. If so, they do not doubt but that every facility will be afforded to them by the Sultan and the Viceroy of Egypt. His Imperial Majesty will readily understand that the Queen has no design of conquest in that district, and that Her Majesty's only object of a military expedition is to effect the release of the prisoners, and to punish the tyrant who detains them in captivity.

I avail, &c.,
H. P. T. BARRON.

Enclosure 3 in No. 809.
FUAD PASHA to Mr. BARRON.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

le 1 Octobre 1867.

J'ai eu l'honneur de mettre sous les yeux de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser, le 1 Septembre, par laquelle, en m'annonçant la décision prise par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, d'employer la force armée contre le Roi Théodore d'Abyssinie, pour obtenir la délivrance des Officiers Anglais et autres Européens tenus par lui en captivité, vous me faites part du désir du Cabinet de St. James, de faire passer à travers de l'Empire Ottoman les troupes qu'il sera dans le cas d'envoyer à cet effet en Abyssinie.

En réponse, je m'empresse de vous informer, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, que mon auguste Souverain, prenant en considération ce désir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, qui, comme vous le déclarez dans votre susdite note, n'a en vue par cette expédition aucun but de conquête, mais bien uniquement le redressement de ses légitimes griefs contre le Roi Théodore, s'est plu à autoriser le passage libre, à travers le territoire de son Empire, des troupes Anglaises se rendant en Abyssinie. Je dois ajouter, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, qu'en conséquence de cet ordre impérial, la Sublime Porte vient d'inviter Son Altesse le Khidive d'Egypte à accorder toutes les facilités nécessaires au corps expéditionnaire de Sa Majesté Britannique lors de son passage par cette partie de l'Empire.

Agréé, &c.,
FUAD.

No. 810.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 19.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, October 8, 1867.

I have the honour to report that, in obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 21st ultimo, I have furnished Captain Charles Webber, R.E., who is travelling in Turkey in order to purchase mules for the Abyssinian expedition, with letters of introduction to Her Majesty's Consuls at Aleppo and Beyrout, as he expressed his intention of visiting those districts after that of Smyrna, where he now is.

I have also offered to send him such further letters of introduction as he may require.

I have, &c.,
H. P. T. BARRON.

No. 811.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Italian Ambassador.*

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1867.

I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have had under consideration your note of the 16th ultimo, in which you express the wish of your Government that some Italian officers may be allowed to accompany the expedition which is about to be sent to Abyssinia.

With every desire to accede to the request of your Government, I ought to state that Her Majesty's Government find that, from the nature of the country, it will be

* Similar letters were addressed to the Dutch and Belgian Representatives, in reply to their applications of a similar nature. (Nos. 551 and 638.)

necessary to limit, as much as possible, the number of persons who can be admitted to accompany the force.

I fear, therefore, that it will scarcely be possible to render to foreign officers such assistance and good offices as Her Majesty's Government would be glad to afford under other circumstances ; but, if your Government should, nevertheless, desire to send one, or at most two officers, Her Majesty's Government will give directions that he or they shall receive the attention due to their rank.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 812.

Mr. SCARLETT to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My dear Mr. Hammond,

The Rocks, Uckfield, October 19, 1867.

I wrote to my late Belgian colleague, now residing at Florence, for any information he could give me about Abyssinia, where he passed two years, being employed there by his Government. I think it possible that his reply to my inquiries may be interesting to Her Majesty's Government, and I therefore venture to forward his remarks to you, together with a map he made of the country, which accompanied his letter to me.

It is, however, quite likely that by this time all he says may have been forestalled from other sources of information.

I have marked the part of Count Blondal van Cuelebroeck's letter relating to the subject.

Yours, &c.,
P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Enclosure in No. 812.

Extract of a letter from M. CUELEBROECK to Mr. SCARLETT.

Italie, Toscane, Borgo San Sepulcro, le 12 Octobre 1867.

Maintenant j'arrive à l'objet principal de votre lettre—l'Abyssinie. Il est vrai que j'y ai fait un long voyage, mais il y a vingt-cinq ans, et l'ouvrage qu'à la demande du Roi (Léopold I) j'avais écrit et beaucoup de documents sont allés au fond de la Méditerranée dans un naufrage que je fis 1857. Voici cependant la photographie d'une de mes cartes qui, tout incomplète qu'elle soit, est cependant la meilleure, et ce n'est la seule, du plateau de l'Amhara. Le pointillé qui de Gondar va à Debra Tabor, à Maderamariam, à Corata, à Bagherdar Ghéorgis, à Dembetza, à Jewouche Kitdus Mikael, et au Nil (Abbaye) en face du Gouderon et du Koutaye, ainsi que le pointillé qui repart de Gondar vers l'ouest jusqu'à Waldeba et Zavergné, route du Sennar, est mon itinéraire et peut inspirer toute confiance.

Je n'ai plus la carte qui indiquait ma route de Massowah Mer (Rouge) par le Tigray, Adowa, Ayam, le Semen jusqu'à Gondar, mais il doit y en avoir une au dépôt du Ministre de la Guerre à Paris, que je crois très exacte, faite par deux officiers d'Etat-Major Français, MM. Galinier et Ferret. Votre Gouvernement sans doute en aura demandé communication.

Votre séjour sur le plateau de l'Annahuac, mon cher collègue, vous rendra facile l'intelligence de celui de l'Abyssinie, car ils se ressemblent beaucoup. Ils sont à la même latitude, à la même altitude, à la même distance de la mer, avec ces seules différences—que la bande déserte qui borde la Mer Rouge est plate et sèche, donc sans maladies ; qu'il y a sur le plateau Africain une infinité de petits ruisseaux qui fertilisent la terre et développent partout une riantة végétation ; que la population y est plus grande, et que l'Abyssin a une intelligence et une sensibilité incontestablement supérieure à celles de l'Indien ; que dans les temps ordinaires il y a plus de ressources en viande, en céréales, en boissons (hidromel et bière d'orge grillée).

Je voudrais, mon cher Mr. Scarlett, répondre de mon mieux à ce que vous attendez de moi, mais ne vérité je ne sais pas où commencer, et il me paraît hors de doute d'ailleurs que le Commandant de votre expédition trouvera sur les lieux quelques Européens qui connaissent le pays, ses routes et ses habitants. Voici cependant et au hasard quelques observations qui se présentent à mon esprit :

1. Je considère fermement comme un des plus grands dangers d'une telle expédition, un nombre de troupes trop considérable. Il ne peut se former en Abyssinie, même momentanément, une armée capable d'arrêter une heure la marche de 1,000 soldats Anglais ; presque toujours 500 et même moins suffiront, et ce qu'il y aura de plus ne sera qu'un embarras par la difficulté des transports et des ravitaillements qui contraindront le chef de recourir à des réquisitions forcées qui susciteront l'imitié de populations qui probablement seraient disposées à l'accueillir comme un libérateur ou comme un allié. Si Fernand Cortez avait eu une armée je doute qu'il eut songé ou qu'il eut pu obtenir l'alliance des [?] Aztèques, sans lesquels cependant l'Empire Aztèque ne pouvait devenir la Nouvelle Espagne.

2. Mon expérience personnelle me permet d'insister sur le parti à tirer des alliances. Dans ce pays féodal et divisé, qui me paraît représenter assez fidèlement aujourd'hui ce qu'était l'Europe après la mort de Charlemagne, les rivalités de la guerre sont partout ; et si le corps expéditionnaire sait ménager les préjugés et surtout les croyances populaires de ces Chrétiens d'Entichés, elle aura le choix de ses alliés. Pendant mon séjour en Abyssinie, Oubié gouvernait le Tigray et le nord, Ras Ali l'Amhara,

Gondar, et Debra Tabor, et Gocho et son fils Bourron le Godjam au sud du Lac Tzana. Tous trois m'ont offert leur alliance à des conditions fort acceptables.

3. On arrive au plateau soit par Dixan, soit par Hallaye, et la montagne commence à quelques lieues de la côte. Il n'y a point trace de chemin et il est bon de se rappeler que des chevaux et des mules chargés n'y passent point. Les habitants se servent de bœufs, qui ont cette qualité spéciale de se servir de leurs genoux pour gravir les rochers auxquels les chevaux n'atteindraient pas par les pieds.

4. La question des monnaies est encore un point essentiel. Celle qui a cours est le talari ou couronne de Marie Thérèse, qui se cogne expressément à Trieste pour la Mer Rouge. Mais il faut que l'agraffe qui soutient la tunique soit à cinq points, je crois, et porte au-dessous du buste les lettres S.F. Un douro d'Espagne, qui a une plus grande valeur intrinsèque, n'était accepté de mon temps que difficilement et à 19 ou 20 pour cent de moins que le talari.

5. La monnaie courante dans toute l'Abyssinie et les pays voisins des Gallas, sont des lingots de sel gemme, dont les mines se trouvent toutes, du moins toutes celles qui sont exploitées, à environ 15 lieues à l'intérieur en face de la baie d'Amphalow (un peu au sud de Massowah). Ces lingots à l'époque de mon voyage se vendaient au lieu de production 30 ou 40 le talari, mais leur valeur augmente en raison de la distance des mines, de sorte qu'un talari à Gondar n'en valait plus que 24 et à Dembetza (Godjam) 18.

Pour monopoliser tout le commerce qui se fait dans ces contrées il suffirait de s'emparer de ces mines ; car l'Abyssinie appartiendra à qui appartiendra le sel, si non par son territoire du moins par ses produits et son commerce.

6. Je crois que le climat du plateau Abyssin conviendrait mieux à des soldats venant d'Europe qu'à ceux venant de latitudes plus chaudes.

7. Le chameau (j'entends toujours le plateau) est regardé comme un animal à peu près fabuleux, mais en tous cas malaisant. Je crois d'ailleurs qu'il ne pourrait y vivre.

8. Le Musulman blanc, qu'on nomme Turkatch, est pour l'Abyssin l'ennemi naturel, un objet de haine et de répulsion. Si l'opinion publique du pays ne s'est pas transformée du tout au tout depuis vingt-cinq ans, rien ne pourrait nuire davantage à l'expédition dans l'esprit des habitants, qu'une coopération Egyptienne.

Voilà, mon cher Mr. Scarlett, les quelques observations qui me frappent en ce moment. Si vous croyez qu'elles peuvent en valoir la peine je vous autorise volontiers à les communiquer à Lord Derby ou à Lord Stanley ; et comme je n'ai rien à faire ici et que j'espère bien conserver tout mon loisir, je me mets complètement à votre disposition pour répondre de mon mieux à toutes les questions qu'il vous plairait de m'adresser sur un pays que j'ai eu mission d'étudier dans le but d'y créer un établissement colonial.

No. 813.

Translation of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Florence, to the Italian Ambassador in London (communicated to the Foreign Office, October 19th, 1867).

Signor Minister,

Florence, Oct. 15, 1867.

At the juncture when England is about to undertake a costly expedition replete with perils, through distant and little known regions, under a murderous climate, to obtain from the Sovereign of Abyssinia an act of justice which he has hitherto obstinately refused, I think it fitting that you, Signor Marquis, should make Lord Stanley acquainted with some particular circumstances which might perhaps be productive of advantage to the Queen's Government.

You are undoubtedly aware that for many years several Italian missionaries, belonging more especially to the ancient provinces of the kingdom, have been settled in Abyssinia, where some of them have acquired no little esteem among the populations of the country. In the number of those missionaries is included Monsignor Masasia, Bishop of the order of Capuchins, a person of distinguished merit and uncommon prudence, who seems to possess considerable influence over the mind of King Theodore.

Monsignor was in Italy for some time, when in consequence of special information that he received he immediately set out for his distant see, having been urgently summoned thither by the Abyssinian Sovereign. It was known, in fact, that the pseudo Bishop Ahiuna, a kind of Catholic heresiarch, who was at first a favourite with the Prince, but afterwards fell into disgrace, had been imprisoned and put to death ; and it seems that in order to replace him the Sovereign had bethought himself of summoning the principal Catholic prelate, known for twenty years among the populations there, as a man anxious for nothing more than the welfare of others.

Bishop Massaia, like all Catholic missionaries, would be unable to undertake an official mission from Government without previously obtaining the special sanction of the Holy See ; but, as we have always maintained certain good relations with him, as with other missionaries, we could well nigh make sure of inducing that prelate to interfere with the greatest possible zeal for the liberation of the European prisoners, if a semi-official message to that effect were conveyed to him from us.

The matter is, as you see, of a very delicate nature ; for, whilst we would not leave it to be absolutely supposed that in this way an object may assuredly be attained, towards which the British agents have directed their efforts in vain, on the other hand it would seem to us but little in accordance with the good relations existing between Italy and the English Government, were we not to make known to it that by our means an attempt might perhaps be made to obtain with less difficulties, and certainly with an immense saving of men and money, what the Queen's Cabinet justly demands.

I should therefore wish that you would mention all this to Lord Stanley, giving him a note in writing, if his Lordship desires it, and that you would tender to him our good offices with those missionaries in the sense that I have explained to you.

Accept, &c.,

P. DI CAMPELLO.

No. 814.

The Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 20.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 17, 1867.

No. 532.

With reference to my despatch of the 27th ultimo, respecting the engagement of Spanish muleteers to accompany the mules purchased for the Abyssinian expedition, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of a note which I have received from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, by which your Lordship will perceive that the Spanish Government will not oppose such proceeding.

I have likewise the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Alicante, together with its enclosures, from which it would appear that the necessary permission for the engagement of the muleteers at Valencia arrived too late for it to be taken advantage of.

Your Lordship will observe from my above-mentioned Despatch that I took immediate steps to obtain this permission as soon as I was aware of the difficulty in this matter ; and I beg to remark that had I previously known of the intention to engage muleteers no delay would have occurred, and Her Majesty's Government would have been saved the expense referred to by the Vice-Consul at Valencia.

I have, &c.

L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Enclosure 1 in No. 814.

SEÑOR ARRAZOLA to Mr. WEST.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, October 15, 1867.

Enclosure 3
in No. 532.

The Minister of the Interior, to whom I transmitted the note which you addressed to me dated the 26th of September last, informs me that there is no objection to a few men leaving Spain to take the mules bought for Her Britannic Majesty's Government to England, but that it is impossible to authorize the said attendants to leave the kingdom, on account of enlistments for foreign countries being prohibited, and made punishable by the laws.

I avail, &c.,

L. ARRAZOLA.

Enclosure 2 in No. 814.

Consul BARRIE to Mr. WEST.

Sir,

Alicante, October 16, 1867.

Enclosure 2
in No. 532.

With reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to enclose copies of one from the Vice-Consul at Valencia, transmitting a favourable decision of the Spanish Government with regard to the embarkation of Spanish muleteers to Alexandria, which, however, appears to have arrived too late to be of any practical benefit, the Governor of Gibraltar having had to send British subjects to tend the mules.

I have, &c.,

BENJ. BARRIE.

Enclosure 3 in No. 814.

Vice-Consul BARRIE to Consul BARRIE.

Sir,

Valencia, October 14, 1867.

I have the honour to acquaint you that on the 8th instant I received from the Captain-General a letter of which the enclosed is a copy, allowing the engagement of men to carry mules to Alexandria on account of the British Government, of which communication I gave a transcript to the British officers in charge of mules purchased here.

The permission above referred to was received after Her Majesty's Government had been put to the expense of sending sixty men here from Gibraltar, and I believe that it will now not be necessary to engage any here.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES BARRIE.

Enclosure 4 in No. 814.

The Captain-General of Valencia to Vice-Consul BARRIE.

(Translation.)

Captain-General's Office, Valencia, October 7, 1867.

His Excellency the Minister of War, under date of the 4th instant, communicates to me the following:—

“Most Excellent Sir,

“The Queen (whom God guard) having been informed of your Excellency's communication of the 2nd instant, requesting that, according to the wish expressed by the British Acting Vice-Consul in the capital, an authorization may be granted allowing the embarkation for Alexandria of Spanish subjects engaged to take care of 500 mules which have been bought by the English Commissioners for the Abyssinian expedition; Her Majesty has graciously determined that your Excellency should be informed (which by her Royal Order I hereby do) that the said subjects may embark, but that they must be warned of the penalty which they would incur if they should take service in another country.”

I inform you of this in answer to your communication, and the said muleteers (of whom you will be good enough to send me a list naming them) are to be told that they must present themselves to his Excellency the Military Governor of this place, before their embarkation, in order that they may be informed of the penalties which they will incur if they took service in another country.

God preserve, &c.

MANUEL GASCET.

No. 815.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 21, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Sir John Pakington, the accompanying copies of a despatch and its enclosures from Her No. 814. Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid, respecting the engagement of muleteers for the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 816.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, October 21, 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir S. Northcote to acknowledge your letter of the No. 786. 18th instant, with enclosure to Mr. Reade, authorizing him to convey to His Highness the Viceroy of Egypt the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for his offer to send a mission to Abyssinia to endeavour to obtain the release of European captives detained by King Theodore, and to express the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government avail themselves of his offer; and am to inform you in reply that Sir S. Northcote cordially participates in the hope entertained by Lord Stanley that hostilities may yet be averted by the mission in question.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 817.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, October 21, 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 18th instant relative to the provision of No. 784. passage to Egypt for the medical officers required for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Military Secretary on the subject.

I am to request that you will state as early as possible the port from which the vessel referred to in your letter of the 18th instant will sail, in order that the medical officers may be informed in sufficient time to admit of their reaching the port of embarkation by the date of sailing, viz., the 1st proximo.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 817.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Horse Guards, October 19, 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 18th instant, and its enclosure from the India Office, inquiring whether, should it be found necessary, and if passages can be obtained, any of the medical officers selected for service with the Abyssinian expeditionary force would be prepared to start for Egypt by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's vessel leaving Southampton on the 27th instant, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to request you will acquaint the Secretary of State for War that all the medical officers in question are now under orders for departure, and will be prepared to embark in the vessel alluded to, provided they can be informed that passages have been provided for them, in sufficient time to admit of their reaching the port of embarkation before the sailing of the steamer.

I have, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

No. 818.

Major CHAMPAIN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

5, John Street, Adelphi, October 21, 1867.

No. 805.

In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state that sticks will certainly be required with the quarter pound signal rockets. I omitted naming them in my letter because I thought that they would be included. As this is not the case I think it would be well to apply for 500 sticks and 50 portfires.

I have, &c.,
J. WILL. CHAMPAIN, Major, R.E.

No. 819.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 21, 1867.

No. 811.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the information of Secretary Sir S. Northcote, the accompanying copy of a letter which his Lordship has addressed to the representatives of the Italian, Belgian, and Netherlands Governments at this Court, in reply to requests for permission for officers of their respective armies to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia.

Lord Stanley proposes to return a similar answer to any similar application that may be made in future.

I am, &c.,
JAMES MURRAY.

No. 820.

The Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, October 21, 1867.

I am instructed by the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to forward for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India the accompanying letters which have been received from Miss Wallace, suggesting that the troops about to be employed on the Abyssinian expedition should be supplied with a certain description of pocket filters.

I also enclose copy of the reply which was sent to the lady to her first letter of the 1st instant, and she has now been informed that the papers have been transferred to the India Office.

I have, &c.,
J. HOPE GRANT,
Quartermaster-General.

No. 821.

The Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, October 21, 1867.

Adverting to your letter of the 18th instant, I have to request, with reference to No. 789. your letter of the 10th instant, in which enquiry was made of this Department as to No. 679. making the necessary arrangements for taking up freight to Suez for telegraphic stores and signalling apparatus for the Abyssinian expedition, that you will be pleased to inform me which Department is to bear the cost of their conveyance, and, if it should be the Transport Department of the Admiralty, that you will cause me to be furnished with the terms of the engagement, and with the tender or charter party of the vessel accepted.

I have, &c.,

W. R. MENDS,

Director of Transports.

No. 822.

The Governor General of India in Council to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received 21 Oct.)

No. 290, Military.

Sir,

Simla, 23d September 1867.

In continuation of our despatch No. 258, of the 3d September 1867, regarding No. 572. the projected expedition to Abyssinia, we now forward further correspondence on the subject, from which it will be seen that the Bombay Government is indisposed to agree to our proposal that the expedition should consist of nearly equal divisions from Bengal and Bombay, with some artillery, sappers, and British infantry from Madras.

2. The reasons advanced by the Bombay Government and by Sir R. Napier do not appear to us to have much force, and we regret that our proposal was not accepted, as we are convinced that its adoption would have tended to make the expedition more efficient and the preparations for it more easy, while there would have been a considerable saving of expense.

3. We should have anticipated none of the difficulties apprehended by Sir R. Napier from jealousies between the troops of the two Presidencies serving under his command, and, in fact, think there might have been a great advantage in the emulation that would probably have arisen between them; while, by using both armies, regiments might have been more readily selected that were in every way fit for the peculiar service about to be undertaken.

4. However, as your secret despatch No. 3, of the 19th ultimo, leaves the preparation No. 48. and organization of the expeditionary force to the Bombay Government, and only desires the Government of India to render its advice and assistance, and as the Bombay Government does not accept our proposals, we have complied with their requisitions and are endeavouring to meet their wishes in every possible way, as you will perceive by the enclosures to this despatch.

5. We shall continue this course, and shall also, when it seems fitting, offer our advice; but you will not fail to perceive that inconvenience must arise from a single Presidency like that of Bombay being charged with the entire arrangement of such an extensive expedition as the present, involving as it does a strain on the resources of the three Presidencies which can be only satisfactorily regulated by the Government of India.

6. It will be seen that we have detailed troops as per margin for the expedition.

7. There will not be time before the mail leaves to inform you of other arrangements that must be made by his Excellency the

Commander-in-Chief in India, in consequence of the receipt of the Bombay despatch of the 13th instant, but we will make you fully acquainted with our proceedings by the next mail. Enclosure 2 in No. 736.

We have, &c.,

J. LAWRENCE.

W. R. MANSFIELD.

G. N. TAYLOR.

W. N. MASSEY.

H. M. DURAND.

British Mountain Battery.
A British Mortar Battery.
10th and 12th Bengal Cavalry.
23d Punjab Infantry (pioneers).

Enclosure 1 in No. 822.

The Quartermaster-General of the Bengal Army to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

Army Head Quarters, Simla, August 29, 1867.

Enclosure 11
in No. 572.

The Adjutant-General having communicated to this department your letter of 25th August 1867, in which it is announced that in all probability a division of artillery, cavalry, and infantry will leave Calcutta for service in Abyssinia after the rains, I am desired by the Commander-in-Chief to bring to the notice of Government certain important points, respecting equipment and transport, about which it would seem there should be no delay.

2. In the first place, I am to observe that the preparation of horse ships under the most favourable circumstances in the port of Calcutta, cannot be effected in a less period than six weeks after the vessels should have been taken up. It is therefore expedient that such vessels should be immediately chartered for the proposed service, and their fittings put in hand without delay.

3. It is to be remarked that for full-sized horses the space between decks must not be less than eight feet, and that no vessel should be taken up with less conveying capability than for 50 horses.

4. It is therefore evident that for every regiment of 450 horses, with officers' charges, &c., about eight vessels will be required; it being according to experience necessary to allow 10 per cent. of spare stall accommodation in each vessel.

5. Thus, for the two regiments of cavalry there will be required about 16 sailing vessels, and for the mountain battery about two more. It being proposed to send 20 elephants, it may be presumed that two ships will be required on that account, or in all about 20 vessels for horses, elephants, and mules.

6. The Deputy Quartermaster-General, Lieut.-Col. Lumsden, having great experience both as regards the fitting of ships and other matters connected with such an undertaking as that proposed, his Excellency suggests that he should be detached to Calcutta for the purpose of taking the direction of the whole matter, and in communication with the Military Department at the Presidency giving practical execution to such measures as the Government may approve, with regard to the taking up of ships, fitting, and equipping them for the service.

7. It would further be a part of Lieutenant-Colonel Lumsden's duty to enquire and report, as soon as possible after his arrival in Calcutta, what steam-power can be obtained, whether for the conveyance of troops, or the same combined with the towage of the sailing transports.

8. It is desirable, his Excellency thinks, to secure, if possible, the services of steamers of such capabilities and power; that while engaged in towing they may also carry large freights of soldiers.

9. This part of the subject is not so easy as it was when the last China expedition was equipped, owing to the fact of the Indian Marine in its various forms having for the most part been abolished; the Indian Navy having disappeared altogether, his Excellency is entirely unable to say whether any, or what, steam vessels may now be hired or purchased in the port of Calcutta.

10. The Commander-in-Chief would draw attention to the necessity of immediate measures being taken to secure forage for the horses on board ship and on first landing. At this season of the year it is believed that neither hay nor straw to any amount are procurable in Calcutta; I am to observe that the experience of the China expedition proved a ration of wet bran and oats, in equal quantities, to be the best for horses on board ship in tropical climates. If any patent compressed fodder is procurable in Calcutta, it ought at once to be bought up by the Commissariat Department for the use of the cavalry on board ship and on first landing.

11. Sick carriage is another very important point, the provision of which his Excellency considers should at once be set in hand. I am to recommend that in addition to doolies, about 500 mule cacolets be made up. It is only an advisable precaution in campaigning in a strange country not to be entirely dependent on coolies of that country for the carriage of the sick.

12. The Commander-in-Chief considers it very important that about 50 good light ambulances, on the pattern of those found to be most useful by the army of the Potomac, (and which can now be furnished from the Quartermaster-General's office,) be made up in Calcutta for the use of the Abyssinian expedition. In recommending this measure I am directed by his Excellency to point out that, irrespective of the fact that these conveyances can go wherever guns can, and of their usefulness as hospital ambulances, he would propose their employment for the general purpose of keeping up communication between the port of disembarkation and the first position taken up on the highland. Thus, single officers and men coming to join and having no means of getting over the first 80 or 100 miles from the coast, would be posted along by successive stages of horses in a manner similar to the passage of the desert between Cairo and Suez before the construction of the present railway.

13. For this expedition his Excellency recommends that every soldier be supplied with a good kookree to wear on his person. The Commander-in-Chief recommends a kookree because the bill-hooks and axes of British manufacture, supplied both for the China and Bhootan expeditions, were reported by officers to be of such inferior quality as to be next to useless, while nothing in a jungly country was found so good and useful as the Goorkah kookree.

14. There are other materials which would be very necessary, thus some 20,000 spare sets of horse shoes, 500 camel kujawahs, about an equal number of bullock puckalls, with some 5,000 mule saddles, &c., and which will all take time to make up.

15. His Excellency desires me to observe that for such an expedition, proceeding for an indefinite time, it will be necessary to have a military storekeeper, supplied with a considerable reserve of soldiers' necessities, such as boots, stockings, blacking, &c., &c., and a good supply of tobacco for issue by indent on payment.

16. In the event of this expedition being ordered to embark, his Excellency would solicit the sanction of Government to the equipment of the force being regulated by the scales allowed for the China expedition, and I am to submit printed copies of the instructions issued on that occasion, and which, altered to meet the present circumstances, might form a memorandum for the guidance of departments and Officers entrusted with the equipment and embarkation of the force.

17. In conclusion, the Commander-in-Chief in India would take this opportunity of warning the

Government that a catastrophe might occur at the commencement, if the whole body of the expedition were to arrive at Massowah or any other port of debarkation simultaneously, before arrangements were considerably advanced in the collection of carriage, &c.

18. It would seem to be the more prudent course that the force should arrive by instalments, the officers in charge of the leading detachments pushing forward to the high land according to such orders as might be deemed expedient by the General in command, while the Commissariat Officers were busily employed in preparing for the movement of the troops coming in succession.

19. It is to be feared, if some such arrangement be not made, that sickness may break out while the troops are waiting at Massowah or elsewhere for the means of movement.

I am, &c.,

JOHN S. PATON, Major-General,
Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 822.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir,

Simla, August 31, 1867.

Having laid before the Government of India your letter dated 29th August 1867, I am directed to acquaint you for the information of the Commander-in-Chief, that whilst approving generally of his Excellency's proposals in regard to the arrangements for providing and despatching the portion of the force which it may be necessary to send to Abyssinia from this presidency, the Right Honble. the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that no further action in the matter need be taken, nor should the Deputy Quartermaster-General proceed to Calcutta, until the reply of the Bombay Government to the letter of the 25th August is received.

2. The commissariat and ordnance departments have been informed confidentially of the proposals that have been made, and the officiating Secretary at Calcutta will be requested to communicate the same to the marine and medical departments, in order that the master attendant and inspector-general of hospitals, Lower Provinces, may be not unprepared for what will be expected from them in the event of the Bombay Government concurring in the views and suggestions of the Supreme Government.

I am, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 3 in No. 822.

Telegram from the officiating Secretary to Government at Calcutta to the Secretary to Government at Simla.

Have you considered the question of coal for Abyssinian expedition? A large quantity will probably be required, and some may have to be sent from this as on former occasions, to Jeddah for instance. Master attendant says we might secure several cargoes at Galle, by telegraphing to the agents there who frequently offer cargoes from New South Wales coal.

The Secretary to Government at Simla to the officiating Secretary to Government at Calcutta.

Sir,

Simla, August 31, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you, that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you.

"Thanks for the hint about coal, but it is not yet settled whether any troops go from Bengal to Abyssinia. As soon as this is settled, you will be again addressed."

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Simla, September 4, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

"The Governor General in Council wishes to know if there is enough coal at Bombay for the use of the steamers to be employed in the Abyssinian expedition. If not, can it be obtained from the Peninsular and Oriental Company? and if that company has not sufficient to spare, his Excellency thinks the Secretary of State should be telegraphed to for a supply."

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India, September 5, 1867.

"Your suggestions about coal anticipated; small quantity in Bombay, but large quantities purchased to arrive, and also demanded by telegraph from England."

Enclosure 4 in No. 822.

Telegram from the Governor of Madras to the Governor-General, September 3, 1867.

The Government of Madras have expressed their readiness to meet the wishes conveyed to them through the Government of Bombay, that three companies of Madras Sappers should be furnished for the Abyssinian expedition, and that four regiments Native Infantry should occupy the posts vacated by the Bombay force. This Government, however, desire to urge the claim of the Madras army to take a more active part in the expedition by furnishing a contingent of Native Infantry.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Sir,

Simla, September 19, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you, that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“In reply to the message dated 3d September, from his Excellency the Governor to the Viceroy, I am to state that the Government of India approves of the Government of Fort St. George having expressed readiness to supply the troops asked for by the Government of Bombay.

“Her Majesty’s Government having left the organization of the expeditionary force to the Bombay Government, that Government has detailed a force, and the Government of India is anxious that the requisitions of that Government should be met as far as possible. In cases where it may not be possible to meet these requisitions, or where some strong objection to doing so may occur to the Government of Madras, please refer by telegraph.”

I have, &c.

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to Government of India,
Military Department.

Enclosure 5 in No. 822.

Memorandum by the Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

Simla, September 3, 1867.

The undersigned has the honour by desire of the Viceroy to enclose copies of correspondence and telegraphic messages regarding the purchase of mules for Abyssinian expedition for record in the military department, and to request that official sanction may be given for the purchase of the animals in question.

SEYMOUR BLANE, Lieut.-Col.,
Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

Telegram from the Political Resident at Aden to the Secretary to Government at Simla,
June 17, 1867.

Camels will not be required to be sent from India; plenty can be obtained from the shores of the Red Sea, from Aden, and from Egypt. It would be advisable to send any mules that can be spared from the Government establishment in India with their trained attendants as a *nucleus* round which to collect more. Mules can be got both in Abyssinia and in Egypt; no ponies required beyond grass-cutters’ ponies, which would accompany Horse Artillery and Cavalry; carts would be quite useless, there is not such a thing in Abyssinia, and no road for wheeled conveyances; sick and wounded have to be carried in dhoolies or kujawas. Cotton ropes for every camel employed should be sent from India, the country ones are worthless. Suletas will also be required.

Full reply to your letter sent by post.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Viceroy, August 6, 1867.

I find there are very few mules here, and Commissary-General at Calcutta informs our Commissary-General that none are available there or elsewhere, except some in Punjab. I have little hope that any will be spared from Bengal or elsewhere, without your Excellency’s special direction, and trust you will give orders that any beasts that can possibly be made available, even though it reduces the strength beyond what is usually recommended, shall be sent to us forthwith. I will have transport for beasts from Punjab ready at Kurrachee, and am sending agents to Bussora and the Gulf to purchase. Many thousands required.

Telegram from the Viceroy to the Governor of Bombay, August 8, 1867.

I have received your Excellency’s telegram of the 6th. I will send orders for the purchase of mules in the Punjab, but am not sanguine of success, as the only first-class trained animals are in possession of the frontier force; these it would be impolitic to take, as the transport of the force is limited, and the corps liable to be called on for active service at an hour’s notice. First-class mules are only to be procured when quite young and unfit for work. More by post.

The Military Secretary to the Viceroy to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.

My dear Black,

Simla, 9th August 1867.

I telegraphed to the Lieut.-Governor yesterday by the Viceroy's order, regarding the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition. If the Lieut.-Governor succeeds in procuring any considerable number of really first-class animals, the Viceroy is anxious that they should be very well cared for and placed under charge of a competent officer; price is no particular object, but a certain amount of discretion should, Sir John thinks, be exercised in treating the market.

If any mules can be spared from the frontier force without impairing its efficiency, they are to be secured. Sir John is by no means sanguine as to the result, and he has telegraphed to that effect to the Governor of Bombay. The animals will eventually be sent to Kurrachee, so in case of purchase the depôts should be arranged accordingly.

I am, &c.,
S. BLANE.

Telegram from the Military Secretary to the Viceroy to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, August 24, 1867.

How many mules have been purchased? how many are likely to be obtained?

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, August 27, 1867.

No mules actually purchased yet, but we hope to get not less than four hundred good mules in all; probably more, judging from replies received to our inquiries.

The Secretary of the Government of the Punjab to the Military Secretary of the Viceroy.

My dear Blane,

Murree, August 27, 1867.

Orders have been issued for the purchase of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, and we hope to get—

In the Lahore district -	-	-	-	-	135
In the Amritsur district -	-	-	-	-	135
In the Goordaspore district -	-	-	-	-	20
In the Jhelum district -	-	-	-	-	40
In the Rawul Pindee district -	-	-	-	-	40
In the Goozrat district -	-	-	-	-	20 or 30
In the Sealkote district -	-	-	-	-	20

Making a total of - - - - - 420

Deputy Commissioners have been cautioned to buy none but really first-class animals, and I hope that they will not disappoint us.

In this matter will any official instructions be issued from the Military or Foreign department; and to which of these departments should we report as soon as the purchases are made?

In addition to these 420 mules we could buy about 600 or 700 more of a smaller description, but quite fit for baggage purposes, and able to carry about $2\frac{1}{4}$ maunds.

Believe me, &c.,
S. BLACK.

Extract of a letter to the Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army, dated August 28, 1867.

The Viceroy wishes Sir R. Napier to know that the Punjab will probably be able to supply at least 400 good mules.

Telegram from the Military Secretary of the Viceroy to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, September 1, 1867.

The Viceroy wishes for a memorandum of mules procured; all good animals are to be purchased and enquiry extended all over Punjab and Native States. All animals purchased, to be carefully trained, and to have good pack saddles fitted to their backs.

Telegram from the Military Secretary of the Viceroy to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, September 2, 1867.

The Viceroy wishes the 600 smaller mules, mentioned in yours of the 27th, to be bought if they are really sound, of good constitution, and quite able to carry $2\frac{1}{4}$ maunds. Enquire in Puttiala, Jheend, and Nabha. Report what has been done to Military Department.

The Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army to the Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

Sir,

Head Quarters, Poona, August 28, 1867.

I have the honour to inform you that the following telegram was this day forwarded to the Viceroy.

"Received your letter of 18th about troops; nothing would give me greater happiness. I will ask this Government to consent; circumstances have prevented my doing so, hence delay of reply."

I have, &c.,

M. DILLON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Military Secretary.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, September 2, 1867.

A report of mules will be sent as soon as information is received from district officers. In regard to training of animals and preparation of pack saddles, his Honour requests authority to employ Major Paget, 5th Punjab Cavalry, to receive charge of the mules at Lahore, and to carry out instructions regarding them, and the entertainment of drivers for foreign service; his Honour thinks that men should be now engaged to accompany the mules to Abyssinia, at the rate of one man per two mules. His Honour further suggests that ten mules with their saddles complete be taken from each regiment of infantry of the Punjab Force, the vacancies being filled up as soon as district officers can purchase.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, September 3, 1867.

In continuation of yesterday's telegram, the Lieut.-Governor desires to add that, if objections arise in regard to the employment of a commandant of cavalry in the supervision of mules and their establishments for foreign service, his Honour would recommend the employment of Lieutenant Ross, 1st Seikhs, on this duty.

Telegram from the Military Secretary to the Viceroy to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, September 5, 1867.

With reference to yours of 2nd and 3rd, the Viceroy thinks that Lieut. Ross of the 1st Seikhs should be employed with the mules; he will probably have to accompany the animals to Abyssinia; and that one man to three mules will be sufficient, pending a reference to Sir Robert Napier.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, September 7, 1867.

With reference to message dated 4th September, announcing liberation of Abyssinian captives, it is presumed that all further proceedings in regard to the purchase of mules should be suspended.

Telegram from the Military Secretary to the Viceroy to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, September 7, 1867.

Yours of this day received. The Viceroy wishes his Honour to continue to act on previous orders until further instructions.

Telegram from the Military Secretary to the Viceroy to the Military Secretary to the Governor of Bombay, September 7, 1867.

The Viceroy is anxious to know what his Excellency the Governor proposes regarding the further purchase of mules in the face of the report announcing release of captives.

The Commissary-General to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

Commissary-General's Office, Fort William, September 4, 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter, dated 27th August 1867, authorizing me, in anticipation of the possible employment of troops in Abyssinia, to instruct executive commissariat officers to purchase mules for transport wherever procurable, and to report that the necessary instructions have been issued, and it has been impressed on executive officers to purchase none but really first-class mules. The maximum price I have fixed at Rs. 225. This price in respect to the mules authorized to be purchased for the Bhootan force was Rs. 180; but having regard to the nature of the service for which the cattle are now required, I have, under the discretion allowed me in the 3d para. of your letter, allowed an increase, but not more than I think will be found necessary to secure first-class animals.

2. I beg to be informed whether any gear besides pack saddles is to be procured, and what the scale of attendants for the mules should be, and their pay. The scale of pay and gear sanctioned for the Bhootan mules is given in your letter of 29th August 1865, but in this case the men will proceed beyond sea, and will expect higher rates.

I have, &c.,

T. H. SIBLEY, Lieut.-Col.,
For Commissary-General.

Telegram from the Military Secretary to the Viceroy to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, September 9, 1867.

Sir Robert Napier wishes for one man to two mules. The Viceroy wishes his Honour to act accordingly. Sir Robert also wishes to know if trustworthy men for the care of animals purchased in the Bombay Presidency are procurable, and, if so, in what numbers, and at what rate of pay.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, September 10, 1867.

With reference to your message of 9th, it is proposed to offer to syces entertainment for foreign service pay at five rupees, plus batta at one rupee—total, six rupees, from date of entertainment, and money rations in addition from date of embarking. Is this approved? If so, how many shall we engage for Bombay?

Telegram from the Military Secretary to the Viceroy to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, September 11, 1867.

The Viceroy wishes the purchase and training of mules to be continued with energy, and all good yabooos to be purchased; pack saddles to be made and fitted to the animals; if one officer is not sufficient to organize and train them a second may be employed. His Excellency wishes every mule quite capable of carrying two and a quarter maunds, including pack saddle, to be procured, and begs his Honour will cause him to be informed once a week how many animals have been bought and where they are collected.

Memorandum by the Controller of Military Expenditure.

Simla, September 11, 1867.

It is probable that the muleteers attached to the cattle with the proposed Abyssinian expedition will be collected from various countries, those from India being obtained from both Bengal and Bombay, where different rates obtain, whilst the majority will probably come with the animals from the countries on the shores of the Persian Gulf or Red Sea, from Abyssinia itself, and possibly from Egypt and Syria.

When employed together all will require one rate of pay.

In Bengal the ordinary rate, including extra batta, may be taken at Rs. 6, but on the eastern frontier they get Rs. 8. Those attached to the mountain batteries of the Punjab frontier force get Rs. 6, and with extra batta would get Rs. 7.

At Bombay they get pay Rs. 5, grain allowance R. 1, and their batta would be Rs. 2, making a total of Rs. 8.

At Aden they apparently get Rs. 10. In the last China expedition they got Rs. 10.

The undersigned would recommend that the rate fixed should be Rs. 10, including everything except rations on board ship, which they might get free.

Should this ultimately be found insufficient when actually in the field, the general officer commanding might be authorized to sanction the issue of rations or ration money in addition.

As some of this class of followers may be entertained by English agency, the proposed sum will possess the convenience of representing the ordinary equivalent of 1*l.* sterling.

A. BROOME, Colonel,
Controller-General of Military Expenditure.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Deputy Commissary-General.

Sir, Simla, September 12, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“In continuation of my instructions regarding purchase of mules, the Governor-General requests that not only first-class animals may be bought, but that all really sound stout mules that are up to a weight of two maunds may be purchased, although not what are strictly called first-class. The price would of course be proportionately lower.”

I am, &c.,
H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir, Simla, September 12, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“On what terms are muleteers and syces for baggage ponies for Abyssinia being engaged at Bombay?”

I have, &c.,
H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.

Sir,

Simla, September 16, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“Six rupees pay may be given to each mule driver or syce entertained for service in Abyssinia. They will also receive rations or Rs. 3 8 per mensem in lieu from date of quitting this Presidency, and are to be provided with a suit of warm clothing at the expense of the Government.

“For every 20 mules or yaboos a mate may be allowed on Rs. 3 a month more than the muleteers or syces, and for every hundred mules or yaboos a sirdar on Rs. 10 more than the muleteers or syces.”

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Commissary-General.

Sir,

Simla, September 16, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“Muleteers and syces may be entertained for mules or yaboos purchased for the Abyssinian expedition at the rate of one for every two animals. They will be paid Rs. 6 per mensem, and are to be provided with warm clothing at the public expense. From date of quitting the limits of this Presidency they will be entitled to free rations, or an allowance of Rs. 3 8 per mensem in lieu. For every 20 mules or yaboos a mate will be allowed on Rs. 3 a month extra, and for every hundred mules or yaboos a sirdar on Rs. 10 extra. None but strong men willing to go on service should be entertained.”

I am, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.

Sir,

Simla, September 16, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“The mules and yaboos collected in the Punjab for the Abyssinian expedition will probably embark from Kurrachee. It would therefore appear desirable that all animals purchased should be collected at Lahore or Mooltan preparatory to going there.

“Please report weekly how many have been purchased, and how many have reached either of those places. As soon as 300 or 400 are collected at Mooltan or Lahore they might move towards Kurrachee; but we should have early information on this point, in order that tonnage may be ready.”

I am, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Memorandum.

Copy of the foregoing forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Military Department, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, with an intimation that, if found desirable, the muleteers and syces may be put on the same rates of pay as those sent from Bombay, whenever the former may join the latter.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.

Sir,

Simla, September 19, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“Please to reply to Colonel Blane’s message of 9th instant, inquiring if trustworthy men for the care of animals purchased in Bombay for Abyssinia are procurable in the Punjab; and if so, how many, and at what rates of pay.”

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India, September 14, 1867.

“Muleteers and syces being engaged for Abyssinia at Rs. 10, warm clothing and free rations.”

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army.

Sir,

Simla, September 4, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

"Mules are being purchased in the Punjab for the Abyssinian expedition, and drivers will be entertained to accompany them. Do you desire to have a driver for every two mules, or for every three mules?"

I have, &c.,
H. W. NORMAN,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Telegram from the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army to the Secretary to the Government of India, September 5, 1867.

"One driver for two mules, please. How many spare drivers would it be possible to hire?"

The Deputy Commissary-General to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir, Commissary-General's Office, Fort William, Sept. 7, 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt this day of your telegram directing the purchase by executive officers of this department of sound strong yaboos, as well as of mules as previously ordered, and to report that copy of your telegram is being forwarded to all executive commissariat officers, who are being further informed that they are distinctly to understand that the animals required are not ordinary ponies, but regularly trained load-carrying yaboos, such as come down from the hills laden with fruits, &c.

Maximum of a mule for Bhootan	- 180	2. I have fixed the maximum price at 150, allowing for them
" " for Abyssinia	- 225	the same increase as I have allowed for the mules on the
" of yaboos for Bhootan	- 120	maximum rates fixed for the cattle required for the Bhootan
" " for Abyssinia	- 150	campaign.

3. I trust my proceedings will be approved.

I have, &c.,
T. H. SIBLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
For Commissary-General.

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India to the Commissary-General.

Sir, Simla, September 13, 1867.

With reference to your letter dated 7th September 1867, I am directed to acquaint you that the Government of India approves of the steps you have taken for the purchase of yaboos as well as mules for the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,
B. E. BACON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Secretary to the Government of India, September 17, 1867.

His Honour has established a second depôt for mules at Rawal Pindee, and thinks that this station is better suited to the preparation of gear than Mooltan. As soon as 300 mules have been collected, and their gear made up, they can march direct to Mooltan in 10 or 12 days. Purchases made in Shahpore will remain at that place until picked up by the Rawul Pindee mules on their way to Mooltan. Are these plans approved? I will keep you informed of the number of purchases made.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.

Sir, Simla, Sept. 18, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

"Arrangements reported in your telegram of 17th instant quite approved, but please say when a batch of 200 or 300 mules under one officer will be ready to start for Kurrachee, and when they may be expected to arrive there."

I have, &c.,
H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir, Murree, September 12, 1867.

I am desired to forward copies of two telegrams received from Colonel Blane, Military Secretary to his Excellency the Viceroy, dated respectively the 2nd and 3rd instant.

2. Instructions have been issued for the purchase of 1,600 mules; it is probable, however, that in many districts the full number ordered to be purchased will not be obtained, but it is expected that about 1,200 will be procured. Intimation will from time to time be given to you of the progress that is being made in purchases.

3. Lieutenant A. G. Ross, wing officer of the 1st Sikh Infantry, who has been nominated to the charge of the mules, has proceeded to Lahore, and has been instructed to enter into arrangements for

the preparation of gear for 1,200 mules, and for the entertainment of muleteers in the proportion of one to every two mules, and one Jemadar muleteer for every 50 mules.

Guide Corps.

1st and 3rd Sikh Infantry.

2nd and 6th Punjab Infantry.

5th Goorkhas.

4. The Commandants of the Punjab infantry regiments marginally cited have been directed to despatch from each corps six good serviceable mules, with gear and selected well trained muleteers, to form the nucleus of the mule train.

5. It seems to the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor desirable that the staff salary to be drawn by Lieutenant Ross while detached from his regiment should be determined. As wing officer, Lieut. Ross receives staff pay of Rupees 230, with 80 rupees as command, writing, and stationery allowance; and as the duty now assigned to that officer will be both onerous and responsible, and will entail much additional expense on him, the Lieutenant-Governor recommends that he be granted a staff allowance of Rupees 400 per mensem.

6. It seems expedient also that some instructions be issued to meet the outlay that will be necessary in the feed and keep of the mules at Lahore, and for the preparation of pack-saddles, &c. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that much inconvenience may result if advances be made to Lieutenant Ross from the Civil Treasury; he would therefore propose that the Executive Commissariat Officer at Meean Meer be instructed to attach a trustworthy Gomashta to the mule train, to arrange for the feed of the mules and the payment of the establishment, and that the commissariat officer be authorized to disburse such sums as may from time to time be necessary for the purchase of gear on vouchers or bills submitted by Lieutenant Ross.

7. I am to beg an early reply to the proposals made in the 5th and 6th paragraphs.

I have, &c.,

S. BLACK, Major,

Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.
Sir,

Simla, September 21, 1867.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated 12th September 1867, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, that the Right Hon. the Governor-General in Council approves of the instructions issued for the preparation of gear and the entertainment of muleteers, &c. for the mules ordered to be purchased for service in Abyssinia.

2. His Excellency in Council also approves of the instructions issued to the commandants of the six Punjab infantry regiments named in your letter for the despatch from each corps of six good serviceable mules, with gear and trained muleteers, to form the nucleus of the mule train.

3. The proposal to grant to Lieutenant Ross a staff salary of Rupees 400 a month is, I am to state, approved of by the Government of India, on the understanding that he is to have the general charge of all mules, ponies, &c. purchased in Bengal and the Punjab for employment in Abyssinia.

4. The Commissary-General will be instructed to arrange for the feed of the animals and the payment of the establishment entertained for them, and also to issue the necessary instructions to the commissariat officer at Meean Meer to disburse such money as may be required for the purchase of gear, on the submission of the requisite vouchers or bills by Lieutenant Ross.

I have, &c.,

B. E. BACON, Lient.-Colonel,

Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 6 in No. 822.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Simla, September 4, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“Has an answer been despatched to my letter of 25th August regarding Abyssinian expedition?”

“Please telegraph briefly whether proposals therein contained meet with concurrence of Bombay Government and Sir R. Napier or not.”

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India, Poona, September 5, 1867.

Orders not yet formally issued on your letter about Abyssinian expedition, but proposals as respects constitution of force do not meet with full concurrence. Will telegraph more fully as soon as possible.

Enclosure 7 in No. 822.

Telegram from the Officiating Secretary to Government at Calcutta to the Secretary to Government at Simla, September 5, 1867.

If decided to send Bengal troops to Abyssinia, please telegraph early orders regarding tonnage required at Calcutta. Bombay Government are securing all available steamers, and our troops may be left badly off for transport unless we get early intimation.

The Secretary to Government at Simla to the Secretary to Government at Calcutta.

Sir, September 7, 1867.
I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

“No orders can be issued regarding Abyssinia until reply is received from Bombay, which has been asked for by telegraph. When anything is settled, you will be at once informed by telegraph.”

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 8 in No. 822.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Sir, Poona, September 7, 1867.
This Government desires to establish an agency at Suez for everything connected with the Abyssinian expedition.

2. Captain Willoughby, of the Bombay Commissariat Department, with two other officers and a veterinary surgeon, has been sent to Suez to buy and ship mules and pack horses. But it is likely that the number of animals which will come either from or through Egypt, will be very much larger than was at first expected. Moreover, large quantities of stores will be forwarded through Egypt, and for the charge and despatch of these and all the arrangements and accounts connected therewith a regular agency is requisite.

3. The Government proposes, therefore, to leave Captain Willoughby and the officers under his orders, to the duty of purchasing and taking care of the transport animals, and to send other officers who will make all payments, keep accounts, receive and forward stores from England, take up ships and settle accounts of such ships, and do the general agency in Egypt of this Government in connexion with the expedition.

4. I am desired to inquire whether the Madras Government could supply officers for this purpose. His Excellency in Council thinks that it would be well to send five or six, with the understanding that they will make themselves generally useful in any way which the superintending agent may think good for the Government service. At the same time they should all be capable of the important primary duties above indicated. They should be subordinate to the chief commissariat officer of the Abyssinian expedition, and be considered to form part of that department for the time.

5. The Government would pay these officers as the Government of Madras may advise.

6. After the above statement of purpose, it is scarcely necessary to add that the senior officer (the superintending agent) and at least one other, should be officers of considerable experience, with known aptitude for organization and for direction of accounts.

7. If a staff of clerks could be sent with them it would be advantageous. The number and rates of pay the Government would leave to be determined by the Government of Madras, on the advice of the principal officer selected for the duty.

8. It would also be convenient if the principal officer would come to Bombay so as to leave, by an early opportunity, if some of his subordinates should be unavoidably later.

9. Will you kindly send me word by telegram whether the Madras Government be able to give a general assent, in order that the intended arrangement may be reported to the Secretary of State so soon as possible?

I have, &c.,

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 9 in No. 822.

The Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir, Simla, September 6, 1867.

I have the honour to submit for the consideration of Government, copy of a letter, dated 5th instant, from the Deputy Adjutant-General Royal Artillery, conveying the expression of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's wishes regarding the immediate issue of the 7-pr. bronze rifled mountain guns to No. 5 battery 25th brigade Royal Artillery, at present equipped with the 6-pr. breech-loading rifled Armstrong guns, in anticipation of the probable requirement of this battery for foreign service; and of my letter of this date to the officiating Deputy Inspector-General of Ordnance requesting him to give effect thereto, which I trust may be approved.

2. I would take the liberty, with reference to Military Department letters dated 28th ultimo and 2nd instant, after careful consideration of the representations regarding the country and the nature of the service to be undertaken obtainable therefrom, and from other sources within my reach, to request permission to offer the following remarks on the subject of the artillery suitable for the contemplated expedition into Abyssinia.

3. In the first place it is evident that the great difficulties to be encountered arise from the physical characteristics of the country in which operations are to be conducted; these consist on the seaboard of low arid tracts deficient of water and fodder for large numbers of troops and animals, of the ascent by difficult and rugged passes on to the highlands, the traversing of extensive tracts of hilly and difficult

country, where no roads whatever exist, where villages are small and widely separated, and the supplies of water and provisions are uncertain.

4. The nature of the ground on the highlands must be held very difficult for the march of troops; the ways will be found mere tracks affording hitherto passage to bodies of men using only mule or bullock transport, and these in no great numbers, the route suggested by way of Antalo and Locota not being even the chief one for kafilas of merchandize to the Port Massowah, which proceeds by Adowa; the descriptions of the country further show that these tracts must be very rugged; that the streams flow in deep precipitous ravines, though of course these will be found less formidable, as stated by the Quartermaster-General of Bombay, if the road taken crosses them most near to their heads; nevertheless, they will still be very formidable to pass an army over; and that difficult passes must be surmounted.

5. It seems further that the enemy to be encountered is ill-armed, without discipline, and, if provided with artillery, without the means of using it offensively. Their fastnesses also are stated to be often placed on high inaccessible rocks or mountains, and most difficult of approach.

6. The difficulties to be overcome, therefore, arise from those natural to the country, and from an enemy accustomed to constant war among themselves, and intimately familiar with and capable of taking advantage of the features of their country to impede an enemy by occupying and disputing the passes, laying ambushes, and attempting surprises.

7. To enable the army of a civilized power to operate successfully in such a country and against such an enemy, it is essential that the force employed should be compact and completely equipped for the service that may be anticipated; lightness, therefore, becomes the point of paramount importance to be considered, or the means of moving the ordnance stores and provisions on which the army will be dependent with the greatest facility, for it must be concluded that with our infinite superiority in arms and discipline the actual conflict will be the easiest of the difficulties to be overcome.

8. These considerations induce me to submit that the artillery accompanying the force should be as light as the nature of the service will admit, and as easily transported as possible, and to suggest that the battery of 6-pounder Armstrong breech-loading guns with colonial equipment shall be sent, and a second rifled mountain battery of 7-pounder steel (196 lbs. weight) guns. These are all guns equipped so as to travel over almost any ground an army can possibly traverse; they can be easily massed against numbers with excellent effect, being guns of precision, with an effective range up to 2,000 yards, and are suitable for every duty of artillery required in such a country with the advanced guards of a force, in clearing passes and defiles, and in accompanying light detachments or escorting convoys; they are alike good and useful in attack and defence against an enemy such as may be expected, and in such an impracticable country. I would earnestly recommend for the consideration of Government the use of this colonial battery of rifled 6-pounder Armstrong guns and a second rifled mountain battery in the stead of one of the field batteries proposed to be taken.

9. In order to render the mountain batteries more entirely suitable to the warfare likely to be met with, I would further recommend that two $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch mortars should be attached to each, equipped for transport on mules, in every way corresponding with the equipment of the guns. One mule will carry the mortar, one the bed, one mule will carry two 50 pound barrels of powder, an ample supply for the two mortars; another mule would carry their fuzes and implements; and the shells would be packed loose in slings, each mule or yaboo carrying 12 rounds, and 50 per mortar would suffice.

10. Each mountain battery would consist then of four 7-pounder rifled guns and two $5\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mortars, and I confidently assert that they will be found eminently useful and suitable for the country and style of warfare; and I cannot but think that if the Bombay Government was aware of the facility of furnishing these batteries they would have been asked for.

11. The light rifled batteries referred to above would perform all the duties of the advanced troops, in clearing the way for the main body of the force, for the field batteries of which roads must to some extent be cleared or made practicable at certain points. It may be supposed that, as in other like mountainous countries, there will be occasionally undulating ground and elevated plateaus, which will be found passable by wheel carriages with tolerable facility with the assistance of pioneers, and that difficult passes and streams will only be occasionally encountered for the passage of which elephants may be required.

12. Government has proposed to send 20 elephants, but it would require 36 laden to transport the guns, their carriage, and one line of waggons with ammunition; or, leaving the waggons, 24 laden with the guns, their carriages, and ammunition. If the country admitted of the batteries ordinarily travelling on their wheels, then for ascending a pass or surmounting any other difficulty, fewer elephants would suffice to bring up the artillery by degrees; but, if the nature of the country be so utterly impracticable that guns and everything must be transported on the elephants' backs, the field artillery of the force will be reduced necessarily to a single battery. Under either contingency how useful will be the colonial and mountain batteries I have ventured to recommend as best adapted for this special service? Should Government be pleased to approve the constitution of the mountain batteries as I have suggested above, I beg to recommend that six $5\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mortars be also sent with the park of the force, as these pieces are very easily moved, and are most useful for many purposes.

13. I would propose that each battery be furnished with reserves of ammunition of 200 rounds each, one in the park with the force and one at the main base of operations, whether on board ship or in a position to be taken up for the purpose; this will give an average of about 500 rounds per piece. I beg to inquire whether this department should furnish the reserves of the batteries proceeding from the Madras Presidency.

14. Rockets are likely to prove most useful in this expedition, and I would suggest the supply of—

150	-	-	12-pounders.
150	-	-	6 "
250	-	-	3 "

with six tubes of each nature, one half accompanying the park of the force, and the remainder in reserve. The rockets last received from England will be sent, but it is recommended that a supply of "Hale's improved war rockets," with a proportion of tubes, should be obtained without delay, overland if possible; say 250 of each nature, 3, 6, and 12-pounders, to come out to Bombay to be sent to the force.

15. The infantry of the force take into the field in their regimental equipment 200 rounds per man; I would propose a reserve of the same quantity in the park and a second at the base of operation.

16. For the native cavalry two reserves of 100 rounds for each carbine, and 50 per pistol distributed as above, would seem sufficient. All the small-arm ammunition being packed in bullock boxes.

17. An ample supply of entrenching tools is required. I propose to send with the park of the force, 300 felling axes, 500 bill hooks, 500 hand hatchets, 750 pickaxes, 750 inamooties, 300 spades, 300 shovels, 50 crowbars, which I calculate will supply one-third of the force as a working party, on emergency, with a due proportion of boring and blasting tools and stores, twice these numbers being supplied to the main reserve.

18. The Government of India has suggested that Sepoys' tents shall be used by the European troops; it will, I think, be found most convenient that Lascars' pauls, that is, half a Sepoy's paul closed at both ends be provided, as was done for service in Bhootan; the latter afford more protection and are more easily pitched on broken ground. Each paul measures interiorly about $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20$ feet, and will accommodate 14 or 16 Europeans; requiring about 60 for each regiment and 10 or 12 for each battery respectively.

19. I would venture to suggest that, as the duration of the service is uncertain, and it may be required to provide better accommodation at some seasons and in some camps than pauls afford, the regular camp equipage of the European troops be sent to the main reserve, to be at hand available in emergency. I beg to recommend that the native corps be directed to take with them their own camp equipage from the stations whence they may proceed on this service, to avert the extensive issue of Sepoys' pauls which would otherwise be necessary.

20. As no siege guns accompany the force, there will be no heavy train to provide for, and it will be unnecessary to send a large ordnance establishment; the duties nevertheless will be very important and require the exercise of considerable energy and intelligence on the part of the officers in charge in procuring that the stores, &c. shall always be at hand to meet the requirement of the troops in such a difficult country, and will be heavy for the establishment as regards the daily loading and unloading large numbers of transport cattle. I consider, therefore, that for the amount of stores to be sent for the Bengal troops, a 3rd class commissary of ordnance, with 1 deputy assistant-commissary, 2 conductors, 2 sub-conductors, 4 magazine sergeants, 4 sirdars, 20 first and 30 second class magazine lascars, with a small artificers' establishment, will be all that are required. As, however, the strength of the ordnance establishment is barely sufficient for the ordinary duties of the arsenals and magazines, I think that it is absolutely necessary, as the period of their absence, if sent on this service, will be so uncertain, that there should be acting promotions allowed in the room of the warrant officers, and officiating magazine sergeants brought in to complete the establishment. It is understood that the native portion of this establishment will be entitled to the advantages in point of pay, rations, &c. granted to the troops of the China expedition of 1860.

21. The great point in hand in providing for this equipment is to arrange for the transport of all stores on mules, yaboos, or bullocks; and so to dispose the loads that, if required, they can be put also upon camels. This can be effected, if Government will be pleased to sanction the purchase of whatever number of suitable boxes and slings may be found needful.

I have, &c.,

F. TURNER, Maj.-Gen.,
Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines.

P.S.—I beg to add that no active measures will be taken beyond preparing the 7-pounder bronze rifle gun equipment for issue to No. 5 Battery, 25 Brigade, Royal Artillery, until receipt of the final orders of Government, only preliminary inquiries and arrangements will be made on the several points referred to in my letter to the Officiating Deputy Inspector-General of Ordnance.

F. TURNER, Maj.-Gen.,
Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines.

The Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Artillery to the Inspector-General of Ordnance Magazines.

Sir,

Head Quarters, Simla, September 5, 1867.

With reference to Government letter dated August 21, to your address, according to which the 7-pounder bronze rifle guns are to be made over to No. 5/25 battery of Royal Artillery, his Excellency will be obliged by your issuing such orders as may appear to you to be necessary in the Arsenal of Fort William, to have the equipment, including saddles, pads, gear, cradles, ammunition boxes, &c., to be prepared forthwith.

2. His Excellency cannot say at present that it is determined to send the battery above-mentioned on foreign service at an early date, but it is by no means improbable, and the equipment should be prepared without delay to meet the possible contingency.

3. It is true that a committee has been ordered to assemble at Ferozepore, to determine certain points regarding mountain artillery equipment. It appears, however, impossible to wait for the proceedings of the committee.

4. His Excellency proposes, therefore, to send down Major Bogle, the officer commanding 5/25 battery to Calcutta. A division of that battery with its mules and equipment might proceed also for the assistance of the Ordnance Department.

5. His Excellency proposes to request Government to order the Punjab officers to meet Major Bogle at Calcutta instead of at Ferozepore.

I have, &c.,
M. A. BIDDULPH, Colonel,
Officiating Deputy Adjutant-General Royal Artillery in India.

Telegram from the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines at Simla, to the Deputy Inspector-General of Ordnance at Calcutta, September 6, 1867.

It is probable the Committee on Mountain Equipment will assemble at Calcutta; send nothing therefore to Ferozepore.

Telegram from the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines at Simla, to the Deputy Inspector-General of Ordnance at Calcutta.

Prepare the 7-pounder bronze rifled gun battery for issue to the 5th battery, 25th brigade, the necessary alteration to be made to pads, saddles, gear, and ammunition boxes. Two hundred pounds weight, irrespective of harness and gear, should be the weight of the load, if possible.

The Inspector-General of Ordnance to the Deputy Inspector-General of Ordnance at Fort William.

Sir,

Simla, September 6, 1867.

I have the honour, with reference to copy of telegrams above, to inform you that, at desire of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and in furtherance of the orders of Government that all mountain batteries in India shall be armed with the 7-pounder bronze rifled gun, the battery of these guns and their equipment received from England shall be immediately prepared for issue to the 5/25 Royal Artillery, which may probably be ordered on foreign service at an early date, rendering it necessary that the equipment should be got ready without delay to meet the possible contingency.

His Excellency proposes to send Major Bogle, commanding the 5/25 Royal Artillery, to Calcutta with a division of that battery, with its mules and equipment, to afford assistance in preparing the equipment for immediate service.

The carriages that come out from England are very much split, and it is believed unserviceable in consequence; if so, new Bengal pattern 3-pounder carriages should be supplied.

The loads are to be brought as nearly as possible to 200 lbs. weight, irrespective of harness and gear. The ammunition boxes will require to be reduced in size with this object.

The English pack saddles require alteration to fit the mules of this country; if this cannot be readily and efficiently done at once, new ones should be constructed without delay.

Ammunition according to the number of mules attached to the battery, and allotted for its carriage, must be furnished with a proportion of case shot, should no further case shot have been received from England, for guidance in making up this case shot.

A reserve of 200 rounds per gun should also be prepared, packed in boxes, making up same weight as for the battery, which can be easily carried on mules or bullocks.

It is probable that that part of the present equipment of the 5/25 Royal Artillery mountain battery allotted for transport of stores, artificers' tools, and entrenching tools, will be available for the 7-pounder mountain train battery.

With reference to this Office letter dated 23d August 1867, and to the telegram above, I beg to advise you that the Commander-in-Chief has proposed to Government that the Committee on the mountain train equipment shall meet at the arsenal, Fort William, instead of Ferozepore, so that, with the prospect thereof and the probability of the 7-pounder bronze battery being required for immediate service, no part of its equipment should be sent away. For preparing the equipment for immediate use I beg to inform you that Government has determined that the patterns received from England, altered only to the extent of adapting them to the class of mules usually employed in this country, and a weight of load 200 lbs., irrespective of harness and gear, shall be adopted for service of these batteries throughout India, and should be followed in the present instance.

The correspondence and papers will be forwarded hereafter to be laid before the Committee.

In addition to the above, six 3½-inch mortars should be prepared for service, for which transport should be arranged on elephants, each carrying two mortars and bed complete, with two ammunition boxes filled. It would be advisable to have also the means of attaching these mortars, or a portion of them, to the mountain battery, for which purpose the light wrought-iron beds made at the foundry with pack saddles and gear complete should be prepared for issue. The ammunition (loose shells) for these mortars can be carried in slings; 50 rounds each with the pieces, and 100 rounds for first reserve, should be immediately prepared.

The officer in charge of the foundry should be instructed to make two or three more wrought-iron beds if required, putting aside all work which may interfere with their early completion.

Should troops proceed from this Presidency, it is proposed to send some elephants for the transport of field guns and their carriages, and the means of carrying one field battery should be collected in Fort William; also harness, &c. for draught if necessary.

By means of the rail, whatever may be required to be made up at or drawn from Allahabad, Agra, and the Gun Carriage Agency can be readily obtained. The officers in charge should be instructed to give your requisitions precedence of all other work, as their early supply is urgent.

All small-arm ammunition required to be sent must be packed in bullock boxes, and all stores, entrenching tools, &c., made up into loads capable of transport on mules, yaboos, or bullocks, regarding which instructions will be sent on receipt of further orders.

I have, &c.,

F. TURNER, Major-General,
Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Adjutant-General.

Sir,

Simla, Sept. 12, 1867.

I am directed to transmit, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief, copy of a letter from the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, dated 6th instant, and of its enclosures, which his Excellency may like to have before him when sending in detailed proposals for the equipment of any force that may be ordered to Abyssinia from this Presidency, should such a measure be determined on.

2. His Excellency, it is considered, will make at once any arrangements which after a perusal of this letter he may deem necessary with respect to the mountain battery and regiment of Native Pioneers, which the letter dated 11th instant requested might be prepared for service in accordance with the general instructions indicated in that letter.

I am, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Adjutant-General.

Sir,

Simla, September 11, 1867.

In continuation of my letter dated 25th ultimo, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that, as the mountain battery at Darjeeling will, at all events, accompany any expedition to Abyssinia, and no delay in equipping it should take place, the Inspector-General of Ordnance will be requested to cause its equipment to be completed in all respects for service at once.

2. Major-General Turner has reported that, at his Excellency's desire, he has already directed the issue to the 5/25th Royal Artillery of the 7-pounder rifled bronze guns. This course is approved, but as there will not be time to settle properly the gear, &c. for these batteries by a special committee as at first proposed, the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council considers it inexpedient to alter the orders already issued for the assembly of the committee at Ferozepore, and General Turner will be requested to cause such equipment for mule carriage to be provided for the battery as can at once be got ready. In this the Ordnance Department in Calcutta would doubtless be much assisted by the presence and advice of the officer commanding the battery, whom the Governor-General in Council learns from your letter dated 6th instant, his Excellency has already ordered down to Fort William for the purpose.

3. It is not the present intention of Government that any mortars should be attached to the battery. Separate orders will be given on this point.

4. I am also to request that you will move his Excellency to cause a Pioneer Regiment of Native Infantry to be made ready and completely equipped for service in Abyssinia with the least possible delay; its numbers being completed so that it may embark 680 effective rank and file.

5. Further orders as to date and port of embarkation will be communicated hereafter.

I am, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 10 in No. 822.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Adjutant-General.

Sir,

Simla, September 16, 1867.

In continuation of my letter dated the 11th instant, I am now directed to request you will move his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to issue the necessary orders for two regiments of Native Cavalry of the Bengal Army being held in readiness to proceed on service to Abyssinia at the shortest notice.

2. The Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council wishes each regiment to be completed so as to embark about 450 sabres of all ranks, and to be equipped for foreign service in the most complete and efficient manner.

3. A further communication will be made for the information of his Excellency when the time and port of embarkation can be settled, and meanwhile I am to request that the Government may be informed what regiments have been selected.

4. I am to take this opportunity of asking what regiment of pioneers has been named by the Commander-in-Chief for foreign service, under the instructions conveyed in paragraph 4 of my previous communication, dated 11th instant.

I am, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Adjutant-General to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

Head Quarters, Simla, September 18, 1867.

With reference to your letters dated the 11th and 16th September, I am desired to request you will be so good as to inform the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council that Sir Wm. Mansfield has selected the following regiments for service in Abyssinia, viz. :—

10th and 12th Regiments, Bengal Cavalry.
23rd Punjab Pioneers.

I have, &c.,

H. E. LONGDEN, Colonel.
Adjutant-General.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Simla, September 21, 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you :—

“The corps selected for service in this Presidency for Abyssinia are the 10th Cavalry from Saugor, the 12th Cavalry from Cawnpore, and the 23rd Punjab Pioneers from Peshawur.”

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 11 in No. 822.

Memorandum by the Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Artillery.

Head Quarters, Simla, September 18, 1867.

The Commander-in-Chief having proposed that Major Bogle with a division of his battery, No. 5 Battery, 25th Brigade, should be moved at once from Darjeeling to the Presidency for the purpose of assisting the Ordnance Department in equipping the battery for service in Abyssinia, the Government, in their letter dated 11th instant, have sanctioned the proposal as far as regards Major Bogle, but have not sanctioned the division of the battery. As it is essential that the latter should also go to Calcutta at once, will the Adjutant-General be good enough to obtain the necessary authority.

Only the native attendants for the mules need be sent, not any Europeans.

M. A. BIDDULPH, Colonel,
Officiating Deputy Adjutant-General
Royal Artillery in India.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Government of India.

Simla, September 19, 1867.

The Adjutant-General is requested to state whether a division of the battery as stated in para. 1, or only the mules and natives, without Europeans, as appears to be stated in para. 2, should proceed to Calcutta. The Governor General in Council considers it undesirable to send any European troops down from Darjeeling to Calcutta at this season, if it can be avoided.

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Adjutant-General to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Simla, September 20, 1867.

Colonel Norman is informed in reply to his docket of the 19th inst., that the Commander-in-Chief proposes to send the mules, drivers, and equipment of a division of the battery only, from Darjeeling to Calcutta.

The European gunners of the division are to remain with the Head-Quarters of the battery at Darjeeling.

H. E. LONGDEN, Colonel,
Adjutant-General.

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India to the Adjutant-General.

Simla, September 21, 1867.

With reference to your dockets dated 18th and 29th September 1867, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council sanctions the despatch of a division of the 5th Battery, 25th Brigade, Royal Artillery, with Major Bogle, from Darjeeling to the Presidency, to enable the Ordnance Department to equip the battery for service in Abyssinia, it being understood that the European gunners will not accompany the division, but remain with the head quarters of the battery at Darjeeling.

I am, &c.,

B. E. BACON, Lieut.-Col.,
Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 12 in No. 822.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India.

See Enclosure 2 in No. 736, paragraph 2.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Simla, 10th September 1867.

I am directed to acquaint you that a telegram to the following effect has this day been despatched to you:—

Your telegram of 8th received. The Government of India see great advantage in a portion of the force coming from this side of India. In this way the *élite* of native regiments of both Presidencies can be obtained, and time and money will be saved, as the pressure will be generally distributed.

British troops could not start to go through Central India or down the Indus until late in October.

The Government of India is most anxious to support Sir Robert Napier's views as far as possible, but sees serious objections to the plan proposed at Bombay.

The Government of India will do all it can to procure coolies, but it is very doubtful if a suitable body will be forthcoming.

A further communication will be made on receipt of your despatch and of the official instructions of the Secretary of State, which may be shortly expected.

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 13 in No. 822.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Government of India.

Simla, 10th September 1867.

In continuation of docket of 31st ultimo, forwarding for the information of the Home Department copy of a despatch dated 25th ultimo, relative to a projected expedition to Abyssinia, the undersigned is directed to state, with reference to paragraph 20 of the above-quoted despatch, that the Government of Bombay has asked for a telegraphic establishment and material.

2. It would seem, therefore, desirable that material for a flying telegraph of some four hundred and fifty miles, with a suitable establishment, should be held in readiness in Calcutta, to embark at such a time as may hereafter be notified to the Home Department.

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Officiating Director-General of Telegraphs in India.

Sir,

Simla, 7th September, 1867.

With reference to the annexed extract from a confidential letter addressed from the Military Department to the Government of Bombay, on the 25th ultimo, I am directed to request that you will at once organize a party of telegraph officers for the expedition to Abyssinia, provided with the necessary amount of wire which may be replaced by an indent on England. It is possible, also, that it may be considered expedient to effect communication between the point at which the expedition may disembark, and the point at which the Viceroy of Egypt's lines terminate, which is believed to be at Souakin.

20. His Excellency in Council would gladly send telegraphic wire sufficient to reach from the sea to the farthest point likely to be reached. I am to enquire if it would be convenient to send telegraph officers and the wire from Bombay, or whether they had better be sent from this side of India.

2. The party should be ready to embark either at Calcutta or at Bombay, but no definite orders on this point can be issued until a reply has been received from the Government of Bombay to the letter above referred to.

3. A copy of a memo. by the Quartermaster-General of the Bombay army, containing such information as is available on the lines of communication in Abyssinia, is enclosed for your perusal.

I have, &c.,

E. C. BAYLEY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 14 in No. 822.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Surveyor General of India.

Sir,

Simla, 10th September 1867.

It will I hope be considered advisable to attach a surveying party to the expedition to add as much to our geographical knowledge as possible.

With reference to the annexed extract from a confidential memo. by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Bombay, dated the 8th ultimo, I am directed to inquire if you can make the necessary arrangements for attaching a surveying party to the expedition to Abyssinia. No actual steps, however, should be taken till you hear further, but an early reply is desired.

I have, &c.,

E. C. BAYLEY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 15 in No. 822.

Extract of a Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Officiating Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India.

Simla, 14th September 1867.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated the 2d instant, and in reply to state that the Governor-General in Council agrees to your proposal to send Mr. W. T. Blandford as scientific observer with the expedition to Abyssinia, and has offered his services as such to the Government of Bombay.

Enclosure 16 in No. 822.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India,
Poona, 13th September 1867.
See Enclosure 2 in No. 736.

Enclosure 17 in No. 822.

Minutes by the Commander-in-Chief and Governor of Bombay, September 5, 1867.
See Enclosures 3 and 4 in No. 736.

Enclosure 18 in No. 822.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Adjutant-General.

Sir,

Simla, September 21, 1867.

I have now the honour, by desire of the Governor-General in Council, to forward copy of a despatch from the Bombay Government, with enclosure, in reply to my letter to the Bombay Government, dated 25th August last, on the subject of the Abyssinian expedition, copy of which was sent to you with my letter of the same date.

As my office is at present very much pressed with urgent work, I am only able to send a copy of the letter from Bombay to your department, but I am to beg that it may be seen without delay by the Quartermaster-General in order that his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may, as soon as possible, and in both departments, make such proposals as seem to him expedient in view to meeting such wishes of the Bombay Government as have not already been complied with.

I am, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 19 in No. 822.

The Quartermaster-General to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

Army Head Quarters, Simla, September 18, 1867.

I have the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, with advertence to his Excellency's nomination in the Adjutant's-General's Department of the 10th and 12th Bengal Cavalry Regiments and 23d Punjab Pioneers for service in Abyssinia, to submit the following arrangements for the consideration and orders of the Supreme Government.

Bengal Cavalry.

2d Regiment, stationed since 30th December 1864 at Deolee, furnishing a detachment at Erin-poorah, without relief (the Cavalry of the Deolee Irregular Force being there available), to Saugor to replace the 10th Bengal Cavalry.

6th Regiment, stationed since 21st March 1867 at Sealkote, to Cawnpore and Jhansie to replace the 12th Bengal Cavalry. A British cavalry regiment being quartered at Sealkote, the Bengal Cavalry need not be replaced.

Bengal Infantry.

26th Regiment, stationed since 22nd November 1863 at Goruckpore and in Bengal, from the Presidency to Rawulpindee, to take the place in relief of the 23d Pioneers. The 26th Regiment moving by railway as far as Delhi at the usual season, and after return of the three companies of the corps from service in the Nicobar Islands.

2. On departure of the 26th Regiment from the Presidency, his Excellency would propose to bring in for the duties in Calcutta the 1st Bengal Infantry from Dum Dum, at which cantonment this corps is quartered in Government buildings.

I am, &c.,

JOHN S. PATON, Major-General,
Quartermaster-General.

Memorandum by the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Simla, September 20, 1867.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, having named the 10th Bengal Cavalry as one of the two regiments of cavalry to be furnished from Bengal for the Abyssinian expedition, suggests that on its withdrawal from Saugor its place be taken in the mode noted in the margin.

The undersigned is directed to request to be informed if there is any objection in the Foreign Department to the proposed arrangement. The squadrons of the Deolee and Erinpoorah Irregular Force taking the cavalry duties at those stations as a temporary measure.

It is believed in the Military Department that no ill effects need be anticipated from this arrangement.

A. JOHNSON, Major,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

The Secretary to the Government of India to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir,

Simla, September 21, 1867.

I am directed to communicate to you for the information of the Commander-in-Chief the approval of the measures proposed by his Excellency as detailed in your letter dated 18th September 1867, in modification of the relief of the native cavalry and infantry regiments in this Presidency, consequent on the orders for the 10th and 12th Bengal Cavalry and the 23rd Punjab Pioneers to prepare to proceed on service to Abyssinia, with the single exception of the removal of the 2nd Bengal Cavalry from Deolee to Saugor, regarding which a further communication will be made to you, on receipt of the reply to a reference which has been made on the subject to the Foreign Department.

I am, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

The Quartermaster-General to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

Army Head Quarters, Simla, September 20, 1867.

By desire of the Commander-in-Chief I have the honour to enclose copies of two telegrams received from Bombay; the first refers to a despatch to the Government of India. If the Government of India sees no objection his Excellency will be obliged for a copy of that despatch.

2. The other telegram refers to the march of the 91st Foot, which is destined for the Bombay Presidency, according to the orders of the Government of India for the relief of troops of this year.

3. His Excellency thinks it an inconvenient arrangement to take all the British troops destined for Abyssinia from the one army of Bombay, as it necessitates corresponding movements in the other Presidencies, which might have been saved with economy to the public service, and with perhaps a greater despatch in the attainment of the objects of the Home Government and the furtherance of Sir R. Napier's plans.

4. It would, however, his Excellency thinks, be inexpedient at this stage, and with regard to the instructions received from England, to make any change by order which might have the effect of apparent interference with Sir R. Napier and the Bombay Government. But, on the contrary, his Excellency would rather make every effort to give practical effect with as little jar as possible to what may be proposed from those quarters.

5. Reasoning in this manner, his Excellency would suggest that the object of the Bombay Government may be compassed in the following manner as regards the occupation of Belgaum and Bombay.

6. The 108th Foot now at Secunderabad is under orders for this Presidency. This regiment may be ordered to march to Sholapore, and thence by rail to Poona, to be disposed of according to the pleasure of the Bombay Government.

7. The 91st Foot may leave Hazareebagh on the 1st December, and be sent to Madras to replace the 108th Foot at Secunderabad. The 91st Foot will then be available for home next year with almost as much facility as if it were in Bombay.

8. On the receipt of the despatch referred to in para. 1, it will probably be necessary for his Excellency to make further suggestions for the purpose of supplying the place of the four British regiments which it is understood Sir R. Napier proposes to take from the stations on the western coast. But Sir William Mansfield has not delayed making the present communication, it being probable that Sir R. Napier wishes an early answer to the second telegram.

I have, &c.,

JOHN S. PATON, Major-General,
Quartermaster-General.

Telegram from the Deputy Quartermaster-General at Poona to the Quartermaster-General at Simla,
September 18, 1867.

With reference to Secretary to Government of Bombay's letter dated the 13th of September Enclosure to Secretary to Government to Bengal, Sir Robert Napier has named from the 15th November to in No. 736

the 1st December as the date for the embarkation of the expeditionary force for the Abyssinian coast, where it may be expected to arrive within from 15 to 20 days of date of departure.

Telegram from the Deputy Quartermaster-General at Poona to the Quartermaster-General at Simla, September 18, 1867.

The 91st Foot relieve the 4th and 26th Foot at Bombay and Belgaum, a wing to each station; please inform by telegram the earliest date on which the wings can arrive at Bombay. Vingorla steam tonnage to be taken up for them in Calcutta will be very useful for the Abyssinian force between the 15th November and 1st December.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Madras. Simla, September 23, 1867.

Please comply with the desire of the Bombay Government to have a regiment of Madras Light Cavalry sent to Serore to replace the Poona Horse temporarily proceeding to Sinde.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Madras. Simla, September 23, 1867.

In consequence of the forthcoming departure of regiments from Bombay to Abyssinia, the Government of India has determined that the 108th Foot shall go to Bombay instead of coming to this Presidency.

Please move the Governor in Council to order the 108th, therefore, to Sholapore as soon as practicable with reference to the season, and thence by rail to Poona, to be at the disposal of the Bombay Government.

The 91st Highlanders will proceed to Madras by sea in December, for duty in your Presidency.

The Resident at Hyderabad will be instructed to inform you if the 108th can leave Secunderabad in anticipation of relief.

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay. Simla, September 23, 1867.

It being quite impossible to move the 91st from Hazareebagh at the date desired by the Bombay Government, the Madras Government has been directed to cause the 108th Foot to march from Secunderabad as soon as may be practicable to Sholapore, thence to proceed by rail to Poona to be at the disposal of your Government. The 91st will replace the 108th in the Madras Presidency.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Resident at Hyderabad. Simla, September 23, 1867.

It being desired to move the 108th Foot to the Bombay Presidency instead of to Bengal, as early as practicable, please inform the Madras Government direct by telegraph whether you think the corps might quit Secunderabad in anticipation of the arrival of a relieving regiment.

Send copy of your message to the Madras Government to me, for the information of the Government of India.

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy of the foregoing telegrams forwarded to the Quartermaster-General for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief with reference to Major-General Paton's letter dated 20th September, with a request that Government may be informed whether this change in the destination of the 108th Foot will cause his Excellency to desire to modify in any way the proposals made in the Quartermaster-General's letter of the 17th instant.

No. 823.

The Government of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received October 21, 1867.)

Military, No. 75.

Right Honourable Sir,

Poona, 28th September 1867.

In continuation of the subject of our letters No. 63 of 24th August and No. 70 of the 14th September, we have the honour to report our further proceedings in preparation of the Abyssinian expedition. Nos. 447 and 736.

2. In the first place we acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 107, of 3rd September. Although we have not time to answer it fully, we offer such immediate remarks as seem necessary. No. 193.

3. With respect to the mention of the despatch of H.M. ship "Star" by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to serve as a surveying vessel in the Red Sea, we have the honour to annex a copy of a letter of the 25th instant, addressed to Captain Willoughby, R.N., in Egypt at the suggestion of Commodore Heath. It appears, from your present advices, that some of the necessary gear for buoying or lighting the port will have been sent *via* Egypt. Our Superintendent of Marine, Captain Young, also, in anticipation of these needs, despatched a quantity of such gear with the reconnoitring party which, according to the arrangements reported by our last despatch, sailed on the morning of the 16th instant.

4. With advertence to the 3rd para. of your despatch, we beg to report that Commodore Heath has already placed himself in communication with us, offering us readily every aid in his power.

5. With respect to the 8th para. of your despatch, and especially to the mention therein of the appointment of Captain Tryon, R.N., to superintend, under the orders of Commodore Heath, the transport arrangements of the expedition, we have the honour to submit the appended copy of a letter from Commodore Heath of August 29th and of the reply of 26th September (written before the receipt of your despatch), appointing the arrangements for the control of the sea transport. Those arrangements may now be subject to such slight modification as the appointment of Captain Tryon may make advisable, but we desire to keep all the arrangements with reference to transport in the hands of Commodore Heath, as it would be a source of embarrassment if it were necessary to communicate in such matters with more than one controlling authority.

6. With respect to the supply of mules noticed in the 10th para. of your despatch, so soon as we learned that Colonel Kennedy was in Egypt for the purpose of purchasing mules, we sent word by telegraph to the officers whom we have deputed to Egypt for the same purpose to leave the matter entirely in Colonel Kennedy's hands. On receipt of a telegram yesterday from Captain Willoughby, Assistant Commissary-General (the senior officer deputed by us), to the effect that Colonel Kennedy's orders are not to purchase more than five thousand mules, but that more are obtainable if needed, and that Colonel Kennedy had no orders to buy pack-horses, of which many are obtainable, we caused a telegraphic reply to be sent that we wish for three thousand additional animals, either mules or pack-horses, to be ready at Suez not later than 30th November.

Letter from Quartermaster-General, No. 2298, of 15th August.

Letter from Quartermaster-General, No. 2412, of 22nd August (with accompaniments).

Minute by his Excellency the Governor of 31st August.

Minute by Honourable B. H. Ellis of 2nd September.

Minute by Honourable S. Mansfield of 2nd September.

Minute by his Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier of 9th September.

Minute by his Excellency the Governor of 9th September.

Minute by his Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier of 11th September.

Government Resolution, No. 93A, of 12th September.

Government Resolution, No. 118A, of 20th September.

Letter from the Commissary-General, No. 4,278, of 20th September.

Government Resolution, No. 144A, of 28th September.

Government Letter, No. 114, of 20th September.

Adjutant-General's reply, No. 1,340, of 26th September.

Government Resolution, No. 145A, of 28th September.

7. In connexion with the supply of transport animals, we have the honour to submit the correspondence, marginally noted, on the subject of the organization of a Land Transport Corps; and we trust that our arrangements will meet with the approval of H.M.'s Government.

8. In the 13th para. of your despatch you mentioned that two mountain batteries will be ready for despatch at the beginning of November; but that only one will be sent unless you learn, in the meantime, that both are required. You will have since learned by telegraphic despatch that his Excellency Sir Robert Napier desires to have both.

9. With respect to the supply of rockets mentioned in the 13th para. of your despatch, we have the honour to report that Commodore Heath has suggested that a rocket brigade might be formed from the seamen of the squadron under his command.

He added that, "apart from their value as a rocket brigade, a body of seamen might be of service from their activity on a line of march where there may be great natural "difficulties." We propose to accept this offer; and are about to address Commodore Heath in inquiry as to the strength and formation of the brigade, and we shall report the result hereafter.

Enclosure 2
in No. 736.

10. In the letter to the Government of India of 13th September (one of the accompaniments to our despatch No. 70 of 14th September), it was stated that, about three weeks after the departure of the reconnoitring party, a body of sappers with some native troops would follow to assist in the preparations. It has been subsequently determined to send a detachment consisting of—

3rd Regiment Native Cavalry,
a Mountain Train of Native Artillery,
10th Regiment N.I.,
Two companies Sappers and Miners,

not as a demonstration but as a party for the protection of the animals which will be despatched thither from Egypt, and to assist in putting up the commissariat sheds and preparing the site of the first depôt and encampment. For this purpose the Native Infantry will take entrenching tools with them.

11. For transport of the animals for Egypt we have despatched the "Great Victoria" fitted for the purpose, and she will reach Suez by 12th to 14th October. Two of the larger steamers of the Egyptian Aziziah Company will be taken up for the purpose, and at least two, and probably more, of the vessels which take the above mentioned detachment, and will leave Bombay early in October, will be sent forward to Suez for the purpose.

12. The reconnoitring party, which left on the 16th instant, encountered unexpectedly heavy weather; and the "Sind," which accompanied them as a despatch boat, found that her coal would not suffice to carry her to Aden against such weather, and she returned to Bombay. Consequently, on receipt of intimation by your telegraphic despatch that a letter for King Theodorus had been forwarded to Aden by the mail leaving London 18th September, we ordered the "Norna" to proceed with all despatch to Aden and to take up the despatches there and carry them on to Lieut.-Colonel Merewether on the Abyssinian coast. She was to have left this morning.

13. The constitution of the Abyssinian force, as proposed in the letter to the Government of India of 13th September, has been slightly modified by the proposal to substitute a regiment of Native Infantry from the Bengal army for one of the Bombay regiments. By this means and by taking a native regiment from Belgaum without relief, our demands for Madras Native Infantry to garrison stations of this presidency have been reduced for the present to two; a reduction which is a great convenience at present by diminishing the extraordinary demand for sea transport, which owing to the arrangements to meet the troop ships conflicts with the requirements of the expedition.

14. The Government of Madras at our request has undertaken to supply half of the Engineer Officers of the expedition; and has also lent the aid of five Commissariat Officers. We are much obliged by this opportune aid.

15. We have taken steps toward organizing a select body of gentlemen to accompany the expedition, for the sole purpose of accurate scientific observation and inquiry, and we shall report further hereafter on this point.

We have, &c.,

W. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD:

R. NAPIER.

B. H. ELLIS.

S. MANSFIELD.

P.S.—We also append copies of the instructions given to Lieut.-Colonel Merewether on his departure in command of the reconnoitring party.

Enclosure 1 in No. 823.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

Sir,

Poona, 25th September 1867.

The Government of Bombay has intimation that a staff of surveyors with the necessary gear for buoying and lighting the approach to the Abyssinian coast is about to be sent from England to H.M.'s ship "Star" at Aden.

The "Star" has been sent across to Ansley Bay, to which port the Government will be much obliged if you will send the surveyors by the earliest opportunity.

You can inform them that these instructions are in accordance to the wishes of Commodore Heath, to whom a copy of this letter has been sent.

I have, &c.,
W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 2 in No. 823.

The Commodore Commanding the East India Station to the Governor of Bombay.

Sir,

Poona, August 29, 1867.

Referring to the conversation I had with your Excellency yesterday, I beg, at the suggestion of Sir Robert Napier, to submit in writing a sketch of the method which should, I conceive, be adopted for the management of the sea transport of the Abyssinian expedition.

I understood from your Excellency that besides Government vessels some 40 steamers and a still larger number of sailing vessels will probably be chartered.

The Bombay Government having in their service a Superintendent of Marine, with a departmental staff, the responsibility of chartering and surveying the necessary vessels, and of managing them whilst within his reach in the harbour of Bombay, should clearly rest with him.

The different departments concerned should make requisitions on him for the amount of tonnage they require, giving on the requisition a general description of the nature of the stores to be shipped, the date at which, and the bunder from which, shipping should commence, and whether steam or sailing transport is required.

The goods should be brought down to and put into the bunder boats at the cost and under the charge of the departments, but the hiring of the boats and their distribution for each day's work should be in the hands of the Superintendent of Marine.

The ships should be stowed by their masters in conjunction with officers of the departments concerned, these last-named gentlemen being responsible for keeping the right thing uppermost.

The same general rules should apply in the case of troops or guns; but the Superintendent of Marine would in these cases ask for assistance in the embarkation (if requisite) from the senior naval officer present.

The naval command of the expedition should be given to the Commodore.

All officers in charge of vessels belonging to the Indian Government attached to the expedition should be directed to obey him, and the charter-parties of hired vessels should be so worded as to give him complete control over them.

So soon as any vessel has completed its lading she should be given over by the Superintendent of Marine to the charge of the Commodore, the Superintendent sending at the same time a copy of the charter-party, a description of the vessel, the number of her crew, names of master and of owner, &c., and a copy of the bill of lading, also a copy of the sailing orders which would be issued by the Superintendent.

The Commodore should thenceforward take full charge of the ship, despatching it to its destination on the requisition of the Commander-in-Chief of the army.

All cargoes should be consigned to the heads of the departments to which they belong; they should be landed on the requisition of the consignee, or (if thought safer as ensuring to the Commander-in-Chief more complete knowledge of what is going on) on that of the Commander-in-Chief.

Vessels returning to Bombay would on arrival be taken charge of by the Superintendent of Marine, who would reload the vessel in accordance with the instructions she might bring, and be responsible for her despatch when loaded; those instructions would be given by the Commodore on his receiving from the Commander-in-Chief an intimation of his wants.

I have, &c.,
L. G. HEATH, Commodore,
Commanding E.I. Station.

Enclosure 3 in No. 823.

The Secretary to the Bombay Government to the Commodore Commanding the East India Station.

Sir,

Bombay Castle, 26th September 1867.

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 29th August to the address of his Excellency the Governor on the subject of the control of the sea transport, and generally of all marine arrangements connected with the Abyssinian expedition.

2. His Excellency in Council agrees generally with the views you have therein expressed, and gives the following instructions for the guidance of the several departments under the orders of this Government. He invites concurrent measures on your part.

3. The responsibility for chartering, surveying, distribution, and lading of the vessels will rest with the Superintendent of Marine, who will be guided by the advice of the appointed officers of the Quarter-master-General's and Commissariat Departments in Bombay, and will be assisted by his Transport Agent.

4. So soon as any vessel is ready for sea the Superintendent of Marine will give her over to your charge, or, in your absence, to the senior officer of your squadron present, and will, at the same time, send to you or such senior officer of your squadron copies of her charter-party, bill of lading, and sailing orders, together with a description of the vessel, the number of her crew, and the names of her master and her owner. Thenceforth she will be under your orders until her return to Bombay Harbour, when she will be given back to the charge of the Superintendent of Marine, to be discharged or reloaded under the instructions which Government will give to him according to the advices received.

5. For fulfilment of these purposes the vessels of the Bombay Marine employed in connexion with the expedition are, with their officers and crews, hereby placed under your command from the time of leaving Bombay Harbour until their return thereto. The charter-parties of the transports, steam tugs to assist in the disembarkation, and other such vessels will provide for your control of these under the authority of this letter.

6. All cargoes will be consigned to the heads of departments to which they belong; but they will be loaded on the requisition of the Controller of Supply and Transport, or the Chief Commissariat Officer at the port of debarkation. Copies of all bills of lading will be sent to the Controller of Supply and Transport, in order that he may keep the Commander-in-Chief informed of what is in port and what is expected and when due.

7. On receipt of the bills of lading the Controller will indicate to the senior naval officer in command the order in which it will be convenient that the vessels should be discharged, in order that the necessities of the army may be promptly met; and his Excellency feels sure that you will give the necessary orders to secure so far as possible that such representations will be attended to.

8. His Excellency in Council understands that arrangements have been already made by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the surveying, buoys, and lighting the approach to the port that may be selected for debarkation, and his Excellency in Council further requests that you will charge yourself with the duty of issuing such port regulations as will secure order and despatch in the landing of troops, animals, and stores.

9. Copies of this letter will be sent to all departments.

I have, &c.,
W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 4 in No. 823.

The Quartermaster-General of the Bombay Army to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Head Quarters, Poona, August 15, 1867.

In connexion with the preparatory measures ordered by his Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor for procuring cattle for the land transport of the Abyssinian expedition, in anticipation of such being ordered to take place, I am desired by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to bring to the notice of Government that, as the Commissary-General has received orders direct from his Excellency the Governor to purchase and collect cattle from the other Presidencies, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and ports on the east African coast, his Excellency Sir Robert Napier, on the 11th instant, nominated Major Warden of the 24th Native Infantry to act as Director of Land Transport of the proposed force, subject to the approval of his Excellency in Council, and such final orders connected with the organization of a Land Transport Corps as may hereafter be issued by Government.

2. The establishments that will be eventually required in this account will in a few days be submitted to Government in a scheme now under consideration in this department.

3. In the interim orders have been given to Major Warden.

1st. That he and the officers who may be placed under his orders will have to receive charge of and tend such animals as may be made over to them by the Commissary-General.

2d. That the animals will be fed by the Commissariat Department on requisitions signed by the Director of Land Transport or his officers.

3d. That all purchases will be made under the arrangements and orders of the Commissary-General either by commissariat agency or by land transport officers, as the Commissary-General may find most convenient.

4. The Commissary-General has now intimated that he requires four officers for the following duty, viz. :—

Two to accompany Major Mignon, Assistant Commissary-General to the Red Sea, for the purpose of taking charge of such animals as may be purchased in that quarter.

Two to be in readiness to send to the Persian Gulf in connexion with requisitions that have been made on the Political Agent in Turkish Arabia.

5. Sanction is therefore solicited to the appointment of Major Warden and the four officers as requested by the Commissary-General.

I have, &c.,
R. PHAYRE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure 5 in No. 823.

The Quartermaster-General of the Bombay Army to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Head Quarters, Poona, 22d August 1867.

In continuation of my letter dated 15th instant, I have the honour, by desire of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to submit, for the consideration and orders of Government, proposals for the organization for a Land Transport Corps for foreign service in Abyssinia.

1. It will be in the recollection of Government that about 11 years ago a similar corps was raised for foreign service in Persia, and that on the return of the expedition in 1857 its field organization was broken up, as too expensive for home service, and the cattle were distributed at certain stations of this presidency where field columns are ordered to be held in readiness for immediate service.

2. I am careful to note this distinction between home arrangements in peace and those for foreign service in an enemy's country, because in the latter case combination of transport under one head, an its administration under one uniform system, are indispensable.

3. It is requisite therefore to bear in mind that all the proposals which may now or hereafter be made with regard to the Land Transport Corps for Abyssinia have sole reference to its existence as part of the army destined to carry out military operation in that country. Thus any arrangements for purchasing and collecting cattle or equipments that may now be resorted to as a matter of economy, and indeed of necessity, in India, will not be held as binding in Abyssinia, where the officers, men, and cattle of the proposed corps will be under the same rules of discipline and organization as apply to our artillery and other mounted corps.

4. Each brigade of the force will have its transport attached of the kind and quantity suited to its wants, and each section of the Commissariat Department in Abyssinia will be similarly provided for as circumstances at the time being may require, but the relation of the Land Transport Corps to regiments and departments will be similar to that of any other department of supply belonging to the force, the employment of its resources being subject to the orders of the officer in chief command, conveyed through his quartermaster-general.

5. The first section of the proposed corps now submitted was drawn up by Major Warden in accordance with the system of organization adopted in the original Land Transport Corps (now the Military Train), which Government may be aware forms a component part of the permanent establishment of the British army.

6. It treats of the number of European and Native officers, men, and establishments required for the efficient performance of the duties of the corps.

7. In order to enable a comparison being drawn between the scale now proposed and what was sanctioned for Persia, I have had two separate statements drawn up, No. 1 and 2 attached, which give the requisite information.

8. It will be seen that there is a difference of expense amounting to Rs. 123 per 100 mules per mensem in favour of the Abyssian prospectus.

9. The permanent charges in the latter will be as follows:—

	Rs.
Head-quarter staff of the corps, Director's pay, and Office Establishment, per mensem	2,520
Pay of his Staff Officer or Adjutant - - - - -	600
Pay and Office Establishment of the second in command - - - - -	1,388
Pay of a Veterinary Surgeon - - - - -	400

Monthly Cost of each Division of Mules.

- Establishment of one Division.
- 1 Field Officer or Captain commanding.
 - 2 Lieutenants.
 - 4 Subedars.
 - 4 Jemedars.
 - 16 Havildars.
 - 16 Naiques.
 - 100 Privates.
 - 1,040 Syces.
 - 1 Serjeant-major.
 - 2 Quartermaster Serjeants.
 - Artificers' Establishment.
 - Veterinary " "
 - Office " "

Each Division, including European and Native commissioned, non-commissioned, rank and file, syces, veterinary, and artificers establishments, £20,210 0s. 0d.

10. A Division is composed of,—

Squads.—Each 1 private, 12 syces, 25 mules.

Sections.—Each 1 naique, 5 privates, 65 syces, 125 mules.

Troops.—Each 2 native officers, 4 havildars, 4 naiques, 20 privates, 260 syces, 500 mules.

A brigade of the corps is two troops; 1,000 mules. Each brigade is commanded by a subaltern. Two brigades are included in a division; the division being commanded by a captain or field officer, as the case may be.

11. The weight of baggage carried by a division of mules is about 180 tons, and in a mountainous country like Abyssinia it would be requisite to have at least half the transport of the army in mules and ponies, which, with a corps of coolies, could alone accompany the troops across country in any direction that field operations might render necessary; thus, his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief recommends that at least 10,000 mules and a corps of 3,000 coolies be procured, four coolies being estimated as equal to one mule.

12. A division of camels would be subjected to similar organization, but as camels usually carry 400 lbs. each on field service, or double the burthen of a mule, the immediate expenses would be considerably lessened by their use. Taking, however, into consideration all the casualties of a campaign, the cost price of camels, and the great loss of life that occurs amongst them, the mules are by many pronounced the cheaper transport in the end, but, whether or no, they are the only reliable transport for a long campaign across a difficult mountainous country without roads; and they will remain at work for years afterwards, which camels do not, as we know from the fearful mortality amongst those animals which took place when the Bombay columns proceeded through Sindh to Afghanistan in 1838 and 1840.

13. His Excellency Sir Robert Napier recommends that a corps of coolies be sanctioned (as raised in China) to work as pioneers and porters; but his Excellency is of opinion that this corps should be distinct from the Land Transport Corps under report. Its organization, therefore, will be treated of separately.

14. The main line of communication between the base at the port of debarkation and the advanced posts of the army having been fairly established and cleared for the passage of artillery, with depôts of supply at stated intervals, an immense saving of expense would be effected by the use of wheeled

Memo. dated 15th August 1867. Raised for service in the Crimea.

Statements showing the establishments proposed for Abyssinia, and those sanctioned in 1856 for Persia.

10,000 mules required. 3,000 coolies.

Camels.

Corps of coolies.

Wheeled transport between depôts on the main line of

communication.
Waggons and carts.
Select committees of officers.
Horse draught for waggons, those likely to be cast in 1867-68. This aid, however small, will be of use. Duties of the commissioned and non-commissioned ranks, &c.

conveyances along that line; but it must not be lost sight of that their use will be confined to that line, prior to the existence of which they would not be of the least use in so uninterruptedly mountainous a country as Abyssinia. The clearance of such line must therefore be preliminary to the introduction of this kind of transport. A pattern waggon and a pattern cart are under construction at Poona, and his Excellency the Governor having resolved to construct 100 waggons and 500 light carts—the former for mule or horse draught, the latter for bullocks—his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief recommends that the construction of these vehicles be contracted for in the Ordnance Department under the orders of the Inspector-General of Ordnance, and that they be passed into the service by select committees of officers.

As draught for the waggons referred to, I am to suggest for the consideration of Government the expediency of using any available aged artillery horses of the field batteries in garrison in this presidency, their places being filled by remounts purchased during the approaching season. Harness should be provided by the Ordnance Department.

15. It will be the duty of the European and Native commissioned and non-commissioned rank and file to supervise the feeding and cleaning of the cattle, and to have charge of grain, forage, and equipments; to see that the latter are always kept in good order by the artificers, and that the syces take proper care of the mules and other animals under their charge.

They are responsible that the animals are not ill treated or overladen; being only in the proportion of one private to 25 mules, as above detailed; they cannot themselves assist in loading and packing. This has to be done by the troops themselves, aided by the syces.

In the cases of the Commissariat, Field, General Hospital, Engineer, and Ordnance Parks, &c. baggage must be laden by the public followers attached, such as doolie bearers, store and tent Lascars, coolies, &c.

16. A second section of the Land Transport Corps is also submitted, in which the question of equipments is treated of with reference especially to the carriage of ammunition. Pattern pack-saddles and cradles for this purpose are under preparation, and, when approved, I am to recommend that 2000 be ordered to be made up by the Ordnance Department under the orders of the Inspector-General of Ordnance, and that they be fitted to mules, and passed into the service by committees in the usual way.

For baggage, the common native khogeer, now in use with the mules attached to the Commissariat Department, appears to be suitable. 8,000 of these, with sulleetas, &c., complete, his Excellency recommends being made up under the orders of the Commissary-General for present purposes.

17. It is proposed at once to organize the head quarters of the corps and a mule division to the following extent, for which the sanction of his Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council is urgently solicited.

1 Commandant or Director-General.
1 Staff Officer.
1 Second in command.
1 Commandant of Division (Field Officer or Captain, as the case may be).
2 Subalterns of Divisions.

4 Subedars.
4 Jemedars.
16 Havildars.
16 Naiques.
100 Privates.
1,040 Syces.

18. The native commissioned, non-commissioned, rank and file will be drawn by volunteering from the native regiments of infantry in the presidency, and his Excellency proposes to arm them with a short sword, or a shield and spear, as may be decided on hereafter.

19. Syces may be entertained to the extent of 1,040, according as drafts of mules and ponies are received or known to have been purchased in India or by the officers who have just left for the Persian Gulf, or by those who may be shortly despatched to the Red Sea and East African coast.

20. I may here remark, with reference to what may appear a large office establishment for the Director, that the duty that devolves on his office is considerable. He keeps registers of all animals, of the various kinds of equipments, stores, material for workshops, pay and advances to the corps and establishments, general and regimental returns, and a large current correspondence. It is essential, therefore, in order to organize and to put everything into shape before taking the field, that he should at once entertain the following establishment, leaving the remainder to be filled up hereafter.

1 Head Clerk.
3 Subordinate do.
2 Peons.

21. As regards the pay of the Director's Office, it will be seen from accompaniment No. 1 that Rupees 720 per mensem was allowed for the Persian Land Transport Corps. Major Warden states that a competent head clerk, who was formerly employed in that corps and afterwards in the Pay Department in Poona, is willing to accompany him to Abyssinia as head clerk, provided his pay is equal to that of a commissariat clerk holding a corresponding position. This may be as much as 300 rupees per mensem, but Major Warden proposes to meet any excess of this kind by keeping the aggregate expense of his office establishment within the 720 rupees per mensem allowed to the Director of the Persian Land Transport.

22. With reference to the employment of European commissioned officers, a large number have either volunteered or are willing to join the corps; amongst whom the following may be named, some only of whom are likely to be available:—

Major Briggs, 96th Foot.
" Griffin, 45th Foot.
Captain Kennedy, Adjutant 3d N.I.
" Moore, 3d Light Cavalry.
" Boyle, 96th Foot.
Lieutenant Hobson (already employed).
" Gunton, Adjutant, 96th Regiment.
" Luckhardt, 109th Foot.
Ensign Gairdner,
Lieutenant Durrant, 33rd Foot.

Lieutenant Lefroy, 45th Foot.
" Sturt, Assistant Engineer,
P.W.D.
Ensign D. Barr, 33rd Foot.
Lieutenant Hennell, Quartermaster, 18th
N.I.
Ensign Strettell, 109th Foot.
" Durand, 96th Foot.
Lieutenant Henslowe, 1st Belooch Regiment.

23. As the work of organization progresses, selections will be made from the army for the various branches of the corps for which officers may be required.

Thus the mules, bullocks, and ponies, the camels, the elephants, and the wheeled transport will all be subjected to the kind of organization adapted to each, but included under the one general head of Transport Corps.

Standing orders for the guidance of the corps will be drawn up as soon as possible, and submitted to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for approval.

24. On the subject of sick carriage our main reliance must be on the established proportion of doolies allowed to regiments, namely, 5 per cent. for European troops and one per cent. for natives. Sick carriage from 35 to 40 doolies per European Infantry Regiment.

25. A proportion of ambulance carts might accompany the force, as useful for the main line of communication before referred to. As regards the mule cacolet used by the French, a pattern of which is in the Poona Arsenal, it may be said that even in the plains it is a precarious and unsatisfactory kind of transport for a sick man, but in a mountainous country, where the road is narrow and threads its way among precipices and defiles, it may be pronounced too dangerous, when camels can be used. It would be better to provide riding camels carrying two men than expose the sick to the danger of using the cacolet in the mountains; riding saddles with supports for the back might be made up on this account to the extent of 400. (See next para.) Ambulance carts and kugawales. Iron camel chair.

26. We have in store a large number of iron camel chairs, which in an open country are very useful, if good animals be selected for them; they would be very dangerous on narrow mountain roads, owing to their liability to come in contact with projecting rocks and trees, &c.

27. The proportion of doolies for the force proposed by his Excellency Sir Robert Napier is, at 5 per cent. for European troops, 177 with 1,062 bearers, and for the Native troops at 1 per cent., 83 with 498; total, 260 doolies and 1,560 bearers.

The pack sick transport for the same force at 5 per cent. for Europeans and 7 per cent. for Natives will be as follows:—

For Europeans 90 camels, each carrying two men.

For Natives 290 camels, each carrying two men.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief would suggest that the report of the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, be invited on the subject of pack sick transport by riding camels, as above proposed.

I have, &c.,

R. PHAYRE, Lieut.-Col.,
Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure 6 in No. 823.

Memoranda by Major WARDEN, Land Transport Corps.

Section I.—Officers and Men.

1. I have, as suggested by you, taken up the organization of the Persian Transport Corps to help me in this work.

2. I would, however, at the outset, remind you that the stability of this organization or its efficiency was never sufficiently tested, in consequence of the Persian War coming so speedily to an end.

3. But I have not adhered to it much, as it is altogether so different (and, if I may be allowed to say so, inferior) to the corps raised for the Crimean War, in which I held the command of a division, that in most cases I have made the latter my guide, avoiding those errors in it which after-experience brought to light.

4. I have taken as a basis the construction of one division, allotting to it a minimum strength of 2,140 mules; of course if camels or elephants constituted the division the number of individuals would be reduced in ratio.

5. In the annexed statement, marked A., I give the distribution of a mule division.

6. I have included in statement marked B. artificers and veterinary establishment, taking as a guide the rates of pay given for the Persian expedition.

7. You will observe that I have ignored all such persons as "muccadums," and given the supervision of these squads to native soldiers and non-commissioned officers, either from the cavalry or infantry branch of the army, and I will explain why.

8. Dearly bought experience in the Crimea taught us how little we could depend on this class when it came to actual service, for if punished for neglect or offended in the slightest degree they not only absconded, but carried off the men under them, revenging themselves by sowing the seeds of mistrust and discontent among all the muleteers, and if detached with a convoy of mules on any duty (no matter how few in number) it was necessary to send a soldier in charge.

9. I would here notice that from 10 to 15 men, with a non-commissioned officer, were detached from each regiment in a division, and placed under the order of the captain of a division of the Land Transport in charge of squads, and right well they worked; they answered admirably; proud of being selected from the regiment for this work, they seemed to vie one with the other as to whose animals should be in the best order; and this is the reason why I would now so strongly urge the employment of native soldiers for the charge of squads instead of muccadums; you will observe that in my distribution I have placed native officers in charge of "troops."

10. I attached so much importance to having Sepoys, non-commissioned officers, and native officers in charge of "squads," "sections," and troops respectively that I have taken them up first, for the whole effectual working of the corps depends on the state of efficiency in which each squad of mules and their equipment are kept up.

11. Before leaving this subject, I would add that I propose filling up the vacancies in non-commissioned officers of sections by promoting the best men in charge of squads and filling up vacancies in the latter by calling for volunteers from the native branches of the army.

12. I now pass on to the officers; no one will deny that their work will be most arduous, and to be performed efficiently will require bodily health, energy, and ability of no common order; even subalterns will have great individual responsibility, for their charge consists of 1,000 mules with their equipments and 1,200 men of all ranks and classes.

13. Moreover, they are likely to be frequently detached with their brigades as convoys.

14. The captain of a division will have, of course, the command of two brigades, *vide* Statement marked A., and to the usual responsibility of such a charge the pay of all classes under his command will devolve, and he in his turn will be responsible for the correctness of his accounts to the paymaster of the corps, of whom I have treated separately.

15. The second in command should, I think, be a field officer, and, in the absence of the Commandant (or Director-General) on duty to any distant point, the whole responsibility will devolve on him.

16. At other times he would be required to visit the different divisions and see personally that everything was in good working order.

A staff officer of ability, method, and knowledge of duty in all its details is necessary, for whatever efforts may be made to reduce correspondence and paper work to the smallest proportion possible, (and certainly if this rests with me it shall be the case,) yet registers of men, animals, equipments, and stores must be kept.

18. The next officer is a paymaster to the corps. I propose that the captain of division should be his own paymaster, and he submits his accounts to the paymaster of the corps who must, at starting, have a good establishment; so that after the campaign little or no difficulty should be found in closing the accounts of the corps, if necessary; for it is well known that the real difficulty of this department only commences with its adjustments, and I purpose in consultation with Colonel Barr and Major Chitty to give the subject my most serious consideration and to devise a concise and clear method of keeping the accounts.

19. No complication should be allowed in the accounts required from the captain of a division; it should be a simple matter of debit and credit; the voucher in its simplest forms, and some degree of trust placed in this officer.

20. As regards the pay and position of officers. The officers of the Land Transport Corps in the Crimea,—I speak of myself and other captains of divisions,—held the same position as the Assistant Quartermaster-General of the division of the army, and were paid accordingly. Colonel W. Napier was the second in command, and Colonel McMurdo the Director-General, whose position was the same as Deputy Adjutant-General or Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Army; and I would respectfully suggest that this corps be placed on the same footing.

21. In closing this section, I ask permission most respectfully to point out how careful should be the selection of officers, European and Native; for the work of a Land Transport Corps to be done at all must be done well.

22. There must be no delays, no shortcomings, for in a country like Abyssinia there will be no remedy or help to fall back on; if it fails, it fails; on the efficiency and success of the transport the very existence of the army depends.

R. WARDEN,
Major, on special duty.

Poona, 15th August 1867.

Land Transport Corps.

Section II.—Mule Equipment.

I would divide this section under two heads; the first for the ordinary baggage and camp equipage of the army; the second, and most important, for the conveyance of ammunition.

The first is easily disposed of, for the ordinary pack-saddle, or khogeer, will meet every requirement, only it must be made of the best material and workmanship.

The second, for the conveyance of ammunition, requires as much lightness as is compatible with strength; and Captain Swanson, Commissary of Ordnance, Poona, has been good enough to undertake the preparation of a pattern one for the inspection of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief as soon as possible, and which I will proceed to describe.

It is a strong pack-saddle with trees, hooks are fixed on each side where the front and back trees cross.

An open cradle made of flat iron bands, with a ring at each end of one side, which is hung on the hooks.

This cradle is open at the top, and its dimensions are sufficient for containing either a box of ammunition or a barrel of powder, which are simply placed in the cradle without any further trouble, a tarpauling cover being thrown over the whole if necessary. The bottoms of the cradle are attached to each other by a broad leather band or girth passing under the belly of the mule, and keeps them from swinging about.

I should wish to know as soon as possible whether I may enter into contracts for the supply of khogees, other mule equipments, and gear, and if so for what number of mules.

Contracts will also require to be entered into for mule saddles for the animals employed in draught.

I purpose laying every article before a committee for approval prior to its being received into the corps.

Poona, 20th August 1867.

ROBERT WARDEN,
Major, on special duty.

STATEMENT shewing the MONTHLY EXPENSE of ONE DIVISION, No. 1, and HEAD QUARTERS of the proposed LAND TRANSPORT CORPS for ABYSSINIA.

STRENGTH 2,140 MULES.

Number.		Staff Corps Pay.	Batta.	Horse Money.	Ration Money.	Staff Pay.	Total.	Grand Total.
		R. A. P.	R.	R.	R.	R.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.
1	Director or Commandant—Major	640 14 6	228	60	60	800 ¹	1,788 14 6	—
1	2nd in command—Major - -	640 14 6	228	60	60	400 ²	1,388 14 6	—
1	Staff Officer—Lieutenant - -	225 12 0	30	60	60	200 ³	575 12 0	3,752 9 0
1	Veterinary Surgeon—if above 10 years.	414 0 4	—	—	60	—	474 0 4	474 0 4
<i>Each Division.</i>								
1	Captain in Command—Paymaster	374 1 0	41	60	60	{300 ⁴ 100 ⁵ }	935 1 0	935 1 0
2	Subalterns - - - -	225 12 0	30	60	60	200 ³	575 12 0	1,151 8 0
								6,313 2 4

¹ Assistant Commissary-General.

² As Deputy Assistant Commissary-General, 2nd Class.

³ As Sub-Assistant Commissary-General, 2nd Class.

⁴ As Sub-Assistant Commissary-General, 1st Class.

⁵ As Paymaster.

Number.			Pay.	Batta.	Total of Each.	Total.	Grand Total.
			R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.
							6,313 2 4
4	Subedars	{ 2 1st Class - -	100 0 0	15 0 0	115 0 0	230 0 0	
		{ 2 2nd Class - -	80 0 0	15 0 0	95 0 0	190 0 0	
4	Jemedars	{ 2 1st Class - -	35 0 0	7 8 0	42 8 0	85 0 0	
		{ 2 2nd Class - -	30 0 0	7 8 0	37 8 0	75 0 0	
16	Havildars	- - -	117 0 0	5 0 0	22 0 0	352 0 0	
16	Naiques -	- - -	113 0 0	5 0 0	18 8 0	296 0 0	
100	Privates	- - -	112 0 0	23 0 0	15 0 0	1,500 0 0	
1040	Syces	- - -	110 0 0	33 0 0	13 0 0	13,520 0 0	
							16,248 0 0
<i>Veterinary Establishment.</i>							
1	Farrier Major, European	- - -	460 0 0	—	—	60 0 0	
1	Native Farrier -	- - -	40 0 0	5	—	40 0 0	
6	Cattle Doctors, 1st Class	- - -	30 0 0		30 0 0	180 0 0	
2	Do. 2nd do.	- - -	12 0 0		12 0 0	24 0 0	
4	Assistant Nalbunds, 1st Class	- - -	33 0 0		33 0 0	132 0 0	
4	Do. do. 2nd do.	- - -	23 0 0	23 0 0	92 0 0		
<i>Native Artificers.⁶</i>							528 0 0
1	Head Smith - - -	- - -	40 0 0	5 0 0	45 0 0	45 0 0	
8	Smiths - - -	- - -	19 8 0	3 0 0	22 8 0	180 0 0	
1	Head Carpenter -	- - -	40 0 0	5 0 0	45 0 0	45 0 0	
8	Carpenters - - -	- - -	19 8 0	3 0 0	22 8 0	180 0 0	
1	Head Mochee - - -	- - -	20 0 0	5 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	
12	Mochees - - -	- - -	19 8 0	3 0 0	22 8 0	270 0 0	
1	Head Rope Maker -	- - -	40 0 0	5 0 0	45 0 0	45 0 0	
8	Rope Makers - - -	- - -	19 8 0	3 0 0	22 8 0	180 0 0	
8	Bellows Boy - - -	- - -	6 0 0	3 0 0	9 0 0	72 0 0	
8	Hammermen - - -	- - -	10 0 0	3 0 0	13 0 0	104 0 0	
10	Puckaulies with Bullocks	- - -	21 0 0	3 0 0	24 0 0	240 0 0	
<i>OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT.</i>							
<i>Director's Office.</i>							
1	Head Clerk - - -	- - -	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	250 0 0	
1	Clerk - - -	- - -	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	100 0 0	
2	Do. - - -	- - -	80 0 0	—	80 0 0	160 0 0	
1	Do. - - -	- - -	60 0 0	—	60 0 0	60 0 0	
1	Do. - - -	- - -	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	50 0 0	
1	Do. - - -	- - -	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	25 0 0	
							645 0 0
							25,120 2 4

¹ Special rates; the pay of these ranks in a regiment of N.I. being:—Havildar, rs. 14; Naiques, rs. 12; Privates, rs. 7; Syces, rs. 6.

² The extra batta of a Syce is rs. 2.

³ Special rates.

⁴ The extra batta of a private is rs. 1½.

⁵ Consolidated, will be rationed by the Commissariat Department.

⁶ Ordinary rates of batta.

Number.				Total of Each.	Total.
3	Dragomen or Moonshies	-	-	R. 25 A. 0 P. 0	R. 75 A. 0 P. 0
	<i>2nd in Command Office.</i>				
1	Clerk	-	-	120 0 0	—
2	Moonshies	-	-	30 0 0	—
1	Peon	-	-	8 0 0	188 0 0
	<i>Divisional Captain's Office.</i>				
2	Clerks	-	-	70 0 0	—
3	Peons	-	-	10 0 0	171 8 0

STATEMENT OF MONTHLY EXPENSES OF HEAD QUARTERS AND ONE DIVISION.
 PERSIAN LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.
 STRENGTH, 1,500 MULES.

No. 2.

Poona, 19th August 1867.

	<i>Officers.</i>				
1	Director	-	-	R. 1,187 A. 0 P. 0	R. 1,187 A. 0 P. 0
	Assistant Naval Officer	-	-	600 0 0	600 0 0
1	Do. Infantry Captain	-	-	736 0 0	736 0 0
1	Lieutenant Staff Officer	-	-	805 0 0	805 0 0
1	Veterinary Surgeon	-	-	220 14 0	220 14 0
	<i>OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.</i>				3,548 14 0
	<i>Director's Office.</i>				
1	Head Clerk	-	-	250 0 0	250 0 0
1	Clerk	-	-	100 0 0	100 0 0
2	Ditto	-	-	80 0 0	160 0 0
1	Ditto	-	-	60 0 0	60 0 0
1	Ditto	-	-	50 0 0	50 0 0
1	Ditto	-	-	25 0 0	25 0 0
3	Dragomen or Moonshies	-	-	25 0 0	75 0 0
	<i>2nd in Command's Office.</i>				470 0 0
1	Clerk	-	-	120 0 0	120 0 0
2	Moonshies	-	-	30 0 0	60 0 0
1	Peon	-	-	8 0 0	8 0 0
	<i>Monthly Divisional Expenses.</i>				188 0 0
2	Assistant Lieutenant	-	-	515 0 0	1,030 0 0
3	Do. Lieutenant	-	-	445 0 0	1,335 0 0
	<i>European Non-commissioned Officers.</i>				2,365 0 0
1	Conductor	-	-	200 0 0	200 0 0
2	Ditto	-	-	150 0 0	300 0 0
5	Sub-Conductors	-	-	100 0 0	500 0 0
6	1st Class Sergeants, including Compensation for Ration	-	-	66 5 4	398 0 0
21	Ditto ditto ditto	-	-	51 5 4	1,078 0 0
1	Farrier Major	-	-	60 0 0	60 0 0
					2,536 0 0

Number.		Total of Each.	Total.	Grand Total.
100	Privates - - - - -	15 0 0	1,500 0 0	
1,040	Syces - - - - -	13 0 0	13,520 0 0	
	Waggon Drivers - - - - -	12 0 0		
1	Sergeant-Major - - - - -	60 0 0	60 0 0	
1	Quartermaster-Sergeant - - - - -	60 0 0	60 0 0	
<i>Veterinary Establishment for one Division of 2,140 Mules.</i>				
1	Farrier Major (European) - - - - -	60 0 0	60 0 0	
1	Ditto (Native) - - - - -	40 0 0	40 0 0	
6	Cattle Doctors - - - - -	28 11 4	172 4 0	
2	Ditto, 2nd class - - - - -	11 15 5	23 14 10	
4	1st Assistant Nailbunds - - - - -	32 8 0	130 0 0	
4	2nd ditto - - - - -	22 8 0	90 0 0	
OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS.				
<i>Commandant or Director-General's Office.</i>				
1	Head Clerk - - - - -	250 0 0	250 0 0	
1	Clerk - - - - -	100 0 0	100 0 0	
2	Ditto, at Rs. 80 - - - - -	80 0 0	160 0 0	
1	Ditto - - - - -	60 0 0	60 0 0	
1	Ditto - - - - -	50 0 0	50 0 0	
1	Ditto - - - - -	25 0 0	25 0 0	
3	Dragomen or Moonshees, at Rs. 25 - - - - -	25 0 0	75 0 0	
<i>Office Establishment of 2nd in Command.</i>				
1	Clerk - - - - -	120 0 0	120 0 0	
2	Moonshees - - - - -	30 0 0	60 0 0	
1	Peon - - - - -	8 0 0	8 0 0	
<i>Office Establishment of a Divisional Captain.</i>				
2	Clerks - - - - -	70 0 0	140 0 0	
3	Peons - - - - -	10 8 0	31 8 0	
<i>Artificers (Natives).</i>				
1	Head Smith - - - - -	45 0 0	45 0 0	
8	Smiths - - - - -	22 8 0	180 0 0	
1	Head Carpenter - - - - -	45 0 0	45 0 0	
8	Carpenters - - - - -	22 8 0	180 0 0	
1	Head Mochee - - - - -	25 0 0	25 0 0	
12	Mochees - - - - -	22 8 0	270 0 0	
1	Head Ropemaker - - - - -	45 0 0	45 0 0	
8	Ropemakers - - - - -	22 8 0	180 0 0	
8	Bellows Boys - - - - -	9 0 0	72 0 0	
8	Hammer Men - - - - -	13 0 0	104 0 0	
12	Puckaulees with Bullocks - - - - -	24 0 0	240 0 0	

N.B.—I have omitted the pay of the Director and Veterinary Surgeon.

R. WARDEN,
Major on special duty.

Enclosure 7 in No. 823.

Minute by the Governor of Bombay.

31st August 1867.

There are several questions of great importance raised by these proposals for the organization of a Land Transport Corps on the footing suggested by Major Warden.

The first and chief question is, whether it is desirable to establish the Corps on an independent basis, or subordinate to the Quartermaster-General's Department, or to leave the Transport Department as it has been hitherto, under the control and direction of the Commissariat.

I have looked carefully into the proceedings of Government when a similar proposal was made by Colonel Playre in 1859, and I have also read with attention the report of and the evidence given before

the Committee on the Administration of the Transport and Supply Departments of the Army, presided over by Lord Strathnairn; and the result upon my mind is the conviction that the change now proposed would be most impolitic.

It is true that the committee propose that the existing system should be changed in so far as that they suggest the appointment of an officer, who shall be the head of the Administrative Departments of the Army, and be responsible for and control all Departments of Supply, including, besides the Purveyor's, Military Stores, and Barrack Departments (as regards fuel, light, and straw), the Commissariat and Transport Departments; but this is not the question now, nor if it were should I be disposed to sanction so radical a change in our army administration at the moment of entering into the field.

The question now raised is the separation of the Transport Service from the Commissariat, and as to this the committee emphatically say that army transport should be placed under one direction and control, to be vested in the officer responsible for the supply of the Army, and under existing arrangements that officer is the Commissary-General.

I would particularly refer his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and my colleagues to the evidence of Commissary-General Drake,¹ Deputy Commissaries-General Fonblanque² and Bailey,³ the opinion of Sir J. Hope Grant,⁴ the memorandum of Colonel M'Murdo⁵, of Sir J. Michel,⁶ and of Commissary-General Power,⁷ and to Sir H. Rose's (now Lord Strathnairn's) reports on the French system of transport, referred to by Lord Elphinstone† in a minute dissenting from a similar proposal to the present, made by the Quartermaster-General in 1859. The present Commander-in-Chief in India in another† minute written shortly after expressed his pleasure that Colonel Phayre's proposal for a Transport Department, apart from and separate from the Commissariat had been "upset by the" resolution of Lord Elphinstone's Government and the reasoning of Sir Hugh Rose."

I have no difficulty, therefore, in adhering to an opinion which recommends itself to my own mind, and is supported by such a weight of authority.

It may be hereafter a proper subject for consideration, and I think it will be, whether a system such as that recommended by the committee should not be adopted in our Army. There may, on the other hand, be reasons which would make its introduction into India inadvisable, though it may be advantageous elsewhere. On this I do not now wish to express an opinion. For the present I should decline to consent to a change the merits or demerits of which will have to be immediately tested in an expedition, the success of which will probably depend far more on the facilities of transport and supply than is ordinarily the case with an army operating in an enemy's country.

A further question, however, arises as to the organization of the Land Transport Service, assuming that it is left as I think it must, under the direction and control of the Commissariat. What the amount and character of that organization ought to be is a most difficult question, but I must confess that it appears to me that the scheme proposed by Major Warden is more elaborate and more complicated than is required, or indeed than is advisable. I believe that just such an organization under special officers as shall suffice to secure that, for whatever service the Commissariat may require them, there shall always be forthcoming a sufficient strength of healthy animals, well cared for and well equipped, with proper attendants to drive them, feed them take care of them and their equipments, with packers, &c. to load them, is what we want, and any more complete and elaborate organization will tend only to establish it as an independent service, which is exactly what I desire to avoid, and to remove it from the direction and control of the Commissariat.

I think it would be sufficient, therefore, to put the Transport Service under one officer, who should be the Director-General (in the present instance Major Warden), who would be assisted by a sufficient staff in the proportion of not less than one staff officer to every 2,000 mules, or equivalent of 2,000 mules, besides a small establishment for returns, correspondence, &c. The establishment of divisions appears to me unnecessary, and likely to produce difficulties and confusion where fractions of divisions may have to be employed. The whole force should be divided into troops of 100 mules (or their equivalent of camels or other animals as employed) under the command of a native officer, and a superior native officer should have the inspection of every five troops or 500 mules. Under this system the head of the Commissariat will indicate what transport he requires for any service, and the Director-General will see that the necessary transport under its proper officers is provided; but, when provided, the direction and command of it will rest with the assistant commissariat officer appointed for the particular service by the Commissary-General, and who will be responsible to him for the custody, delivery, storage, or distribution of the stores or supplies entrusted to him.

A question is raised by Major Warden as to the employment of mucedums, in whose place he suggests that we should employ privates of the native army. He says that better experience in the Crimea has convinced him that it is desirable to substitute some other class for the mucedums. I do not know whether he refers to a failure in the service of Indian followers in the Crimea if any such were employed, or only to men holding a similar position. Be that as it may, I fancy that the facilities for desertion in Abyssinia will not be great. A more formidable objection to Major Warden's proposal is the doubt expressed by those who have had much experience of this class of men and of commissariat service in India, whether the syces will be found to take service willingly except under the system with which they are acquainted, which places them under mucedums whom they know and who understand them. Of the validity of this objection I am unable myself to judge, but in this particular also I am fully convinced that it is not desirable to hazard a change at the very moment of commencing a campaign, and thus staking the efficiency of our land transport on which our whole success may depend.

A further question arises as to the propriety or necessity of enlisting the men employed in the Land Transport Corps, and on this subject I find Sir Wm. Mansfield expressed a strong opinion that, in case of an Anglo-Indian Force being sent for operations on land out of India, "a military transport train" organized for the special purpose, and composed of enlisted men, under regimental officers, should "be put on foot by the Commissariat." He adds, "such an organization should be a *sine qua non* in a foreign expedition."

Report p. 2, para. 4.

Report p. 2, para. 5.

(1) p. 119, answers 1854-55.

(2) p. 151, answers 2265.

(3) p. 305.

(4) *ibid* in the foot note.

(5) p. 387.

(6) p. 313.

(7) p. 415, paras. 67, 68, 69.

In vol. of Govt. proceedings, p. 39.

† *ibid*, page 265.

I am aware that an opinion is entertained by experienced officers that it would be found that the class of men required for these duties would be found unwilling to enlist; and that the proposal is therefore impracticable. But I cannot but think that the promise of an adequate and liberal pension, in case of death, or being incapacitated while on service, would be found a sufficient inducement for the men to enlist temporarily for the expedition, and to enlist them longer I do not think would be desirable. A greater difficulty may perhaps be found on its being necessary to obtain the sanction of the Government of India, or of the Secretary of State, to an enlistment on such conditions. I will only add that the question whether the men are enlisted or not, is one of secondary importance.

As regards the equipment of the corps, this is a matter so entirely departmental, that I have only to say that, subject to the opinion of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, as to the best form, &c. of the equipments, no time should be lost in providing them. The Director-General should immediately obtain authorized patterns of the saddles, harness, packs, carts, &c. An estimate of the quantity required should be submitted for sanction and tenders invited by the Commissary-General, or their construction commenced in the Government Departments forthwith.

W. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.

Enclosure 8 in No. 823.

Minute by the Hon. B. H. Ellis.

2nd September 1857.

I remember well the discussion which took place in 1859, and which ended in the decision that it would be highly inexpedient to sever the connexion between the departments of supply and transport. The opinion of high authorities expressed since the date of the resolution of Lord Elphinstone's government is in favour of the same view. Sir W. Mansfield and Sir Hugh Rose with their Indian experience and the Home Commission, all add their testimony to the correctness of the decision arrived at. I do not know how far his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief concurs in Colonel Phayre's views, but it would require very strong arguments in addition to the weight attaching to his Excellency's opinions to induce me to abandon my conviction on this point. I confess I should be very sorry to see the connexion of the Commissariat and Transport Departments severed in order to place the latter under the Quarter-master-General.

When a force is about to proceed to an enemy's country, in which the means of transport are, if not absolutely wanting, at least exceptionally deficient, it is clearly necessary to organize a special body for transport purposes, and there is no reason whatever why such a body should not be under the head of the Commissariat Department, as a separate branch, with a director specially charged with the organization and control of the means of transport.

An organization such as is approved by the Right Honourable the Governor would probably best secure effective discipline without complicating the service too much. An over-refined organization is quite as likely to produce confusion (and it will certainly cause more delay) as the want of proper discipline.

I believe that, in the present case, the question of enlistment is of minor importance. One great object of enlistment is to secure, in a time of war, the services of men trained in a time of peace, and thus check desertions at a critical moment. But those who will now form the bulk of the transport servants will be engaged for this special service. The terms offered, whether of enlistment or otherwise, must be sufficiently liberal to secure the service of efficient men. But once engaged and embarked on the service the men are not likely to have the opportunity, even if they had the will, to desert; and on the other hand, the enlistment would be only for a limited period, as the Government would not desire to be burdened with the cost of supporting a number of men after the work for which they were required had been concluded. At any rate I would deprecate proposals to employ European subordinate agency in place of the mucedums or native agency by whatever name called, to which the great mass of mule drivers, camel drivers and the like are accustomed.

Whether the men are enlisted or not, some places of superior pay must be open to them, pension or compassionate allowance to their families in case of death should be promised, and a supply of clothing suitable to the climate must be offered in addition to liberal pay.

With these essentials attended to, I do not think it of much consequence to enlist for this special service; the only difficulty is in regard to pensions. I presume it would be incumbent on the Home Government to grant them as a charge on the general and not on the Indian revenues, and, therefore, it may be necessary to restrict the grant of pensions to cases in which pensions would be granted by the Indian Government to their own servants.

With regard to the other points discussed in the minute of the Right Honourable the Governor, it is sufficient to express my concurrence, as they have been fully treated by his Excellency.

B. H. ELLIS.

Enclosure 9 in No. 823.

Minute by the Honourable S. Mansfield.

2d September 1867.

The highest authorities in England and in India have agreed that it is undesirable to remove the control of the transport service of an army from the commissariat, and I think the revival of the discussion of this question at the present moment peculiarly inopportune, when so little time is left at our disposal, and the introduction of so radical a change as is proposed might seriously compromise the safety of the troops and the success of the expedition.

A transport service, as roughly sketched by the Right Hon. the Governor, would be, in my opinion, the best adapted for the requirements of the force.

On the question of enlistment, I fully concur in the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Ellis.

S. MANSFIELD.

Enclosure 10 in No. 823.

Minute by Sir ROBERT NAPIER.

9th September 1867.

I do not think the time is appropriate for any discussion as to the department under which the Land Transport should be placed, and I accept without hesitation his Excellency's decision to place it under the Commissariat.

I believe that the success of systems depends more on the men who work them than on the systems themselves.

But I cannot accept without protest a decision to throw such a body of men as the drivers of our transport animals will be, if we get them, on an expedition in a foreign country, without a very complete organization, to secure order and discipline.

There may be Egyptians, Arabs, Persians, and Hindustanis, or Abyssinians mixed up together, and without more organization than the ordinary one in the Commissariat Department nothing but confusion would ensue, the people of the country would be plundered and ill-treated, and all our efforts at conciliation defeated.

The Commissariat Department have had but a small quantity of their own carriage to manage; the greater portion has been hired carriage, managed under a kind of social organization peculiar to itself, which has existed from time immemorial, and which goes on somehow, one hardly knows how; but this is very different from the large body of drivers who must now be engaged, and for whom a regular system of control must be instituted.

I understand the scale of establishment proposed by Major Warden and the Quartermaster-General, resembles generally that which was formerly instituted in the Presidency for the Persian expedition. Admitting that the numbers are very great, I shall be prepared to try any reasonable reduction which may be proposed by a committee composed of Lieutenant-Colonel Holland, Deputy Commissary, General, Major Warden, and any other officer appointed by Government to consider the question.

R. NAPIER.

Enclosure 11 in No. 823.

Minute by the Governor of Bombay.

9th September 1867.

His Excellency is under a misapprehension, if he supposes that I should wish the organization to be nothing more than the ordinary one in the Commissariat Department. I expressly said that Major Warden should have a sufficient staff of officers under him, and, if the proportion of one to each 2,000 mules is not enough, I am quite willing that it should be increased. I should think that the appointment of one European officer to each 1,000 would be ample, but on this I am quite willing to waive my own opinion. There are two things only to which I feel a great objection; 1st, that the force should be organized in a shape that shall make it an independent corps, instead of being a corps subordinate to the Commissariat; and, 2nd, to devolve on a committee the decision of a point which we can very well settle without the intervention of any such body.

WM. FITZGERALD.

Enclosure 12 in No. 823.

Minute by Sir ROBERT NAPIER.

11th September 1867.

As his Excellency the Governor objects to the appointment of a committee to prepare a scale of establishment for the land transport, I conclude that his Excellency will appoint some officer or other person to do so.

I have, therefore, only to request that, when any definite form of establishment is resolved on, I may be favoured with an opportunity of offering an opinion upon it, which, considering how large a share I shall have in the use of it, and how much the credit of this Government will be affected by its success or failure, his Excellency in Council may think desirable.

It may be as well to note that I was quite unaware that the question of the department to which the land transport should belong had already been discussed in this Presidency, and that the official traditions of the Government were adverse to the Quartermaster-General's Department having charge of it; had I been informed of this, I should not have permitted the proposal to be made in that form.

The superintendence mentioned in the Government Resolution does not appear to me to meet the requirements of the case, as far as I can judge of it.

R. NAPIER.

Enclosure 13 in No. 823.

Resolution of the Bombay Government.

Poona, September 12, 1867.

There are several questions of great importance raised by these proposals for the organization of the land transport for the Abyssinian expedition.

The first and chief question is, whether it is desirable to establish the corps on an independent basis, or subordinate to the Quartermaster-General's Department, or to leave the Transport Department, as it has been hitherto, under the control and direction of the Commissariat.

His Excellency in Council has reviewed carefully the proceedings connected with a similar proposal made by the Quartermaster-General in 1859, and the opinion of this Government was expressed in Resolutions of 30th September 1859 and 9th June 1860. His Excellency in Council has also had

the advantage of perusing the evidence given before the Committee on the Administration of the Transport and Supply Departments of the Army, presided over by Lord Strathnairn. That evidence is uniformly confirmatory of the previous decision of this Government on the question now again raised of the separation of the transport service from the Commissariat. The committee emphatically say that army transport should be placed under one direction and control, to be vested in the officer responsible for the supply of the army, and under existing arrangements that officer is the Commissary-General.

Sir William Mansfield, in 1860, expressed his pleasure that the proposal for a Transport Department apart from and separate from the Commissariat had been "upset by the resolution of Lord Elphinstone's Government and the reasoning of Sir Hugh Rose."

His Excellency in Council has therefore no hesitation in deciding that the transport shall be under the same general direction as the Department of Supply.

The 5th to the 12th paragraphs of the Quartermaster-General's letter treat of the internal organization of the transport corps, and his Excellency in Council thinks that the scheme proposed by Major Warden is more elaborate and complicated than is desirable. He conceives that it would suffice to place the transport under one officer as director (in the present instance Major Warden), who would be assisted by a sufficient staff, with a suitable establishment of clerks. A proportion of one European commissioned officer to 1,000 mules (or their equivalent) will probably be sufficient at first. The whole transport force might perhaps be advantageously divided from the first into troops of 100 mules (or their equivalent), under the command of a native officer, and a superior native officer should have the inspection of, say, five troops, or 500 mules; but at present the more complicated organization in divisions appears unnecessary and likely to produce difficulty and confusion where fractions of divisions may have to be employed, and it would seem preferable to leave the further development of internal organization to be made as circumstances and experience may indicate. Under this system the head of the Commissariat will indicate what transport he requires for any service, and the Director-General will see that the necessary transport, under its proper officers, is provided; but, when provided, the direction and command of it will rest with the assistant commissariat officer appointed for the particular service by the Commissary-General, and who will be responsible to him for the custody, delivery, storage, or distribution of the stores or supplies entrusted to him.

A question is raised by Major Warden as to the employment of mucedums, in whose place he suggests the employment of privates of the Native Army. He says that experience in the Crimea has convinced him that it is desirable to substitute some other class for the mucedums. Major Warden particularly mentions that the mucedums in the Crimea, on small provocation, deserted with the men under them. The facilities for desertion will not be great in Abyssinia, and the existing system seems to be approved by many who have had much experience, and his Excellency in Council thinks it unadvisable to hazard such a change at the moment of commencing a campaign.

The 13th paragraph of the Quartermaster-General's letter relates to the entertainment of a cooly corps, which it has since been determined to obtain from Bengal.

The 14th paragraph relates to draught transport, and the remarks on this subject have been superseded by separate action.

The 16th paragraph refers to equipments. Subject to the opinion of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief as to the best form, &c. of these, no time should be lost in providing them.

The 17th to 22d paragraphs refer to the immediate organization of the Head Quarter Transport Establishment, which should now be undertaken without further delay by Major Warden, under the general direction of the Commissary-General, in accordance to the views above expressed. The Commissary-General will keep his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief informed of the detailed arrangements made under these orders.

The Commissary-General should consult the Inspector-General, Medical Department, on the subject of sick carriage as noticed in the last part of the Quartermaster-General's letter.

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 14 in No. 823.

Resolution of the Bombay Government.

Bombay Castle, 30th September 1867.

The following establishment is approved for the Commissariat Department of the Abyssinian expedition:

Controller of Supply and Transport, Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Holland.
Deputy Commissary-General, Lieut.-Colonel A. Lucas.
Director of Land Transport, Major R. P. Warden.
Assistant Commissaries-General, 1st class, Major F. P. Mignon, Captain M. Willoughby, and Major Bardin (Madras Staff Corps).
Assistant Commissary-General, 2nd class, Captain Hawkes (Madras Staff Corps).
Deputy Assistant Commissaries-General, 1st class, Captain Clarke, Captain Heysham (Madras Staff Corps), Major Thacker, and Captain Phelps.
Deputy Assistant Commissaries-General, 2nd class, Lieutenants Shewell and Bryant.
Sub-Assistant Commissaries-General, 1st class, three officers to be named hereafter.
The additional officers of the Land Transport Corps will be named hereafter, and the whole will hereafter be published in General orders.

These arrangements in respect of the officers already holding departmental posts will only have effect from the time that they may be detached for service with the Abyssinian force.

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 15 in No. 823.

The Commissary-General of the Bombay Army to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir, Poona, 20th September 1867.

With reference to paragraph 3 of Government resolution of 12th instant, I have the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, that, after due consideration, I am of opinion that the following establishment is necessary for every 2,000 animals, viz:—

- 1 Captain.
- 2 Subalterns.
- 4 Chief inspectors, 1 to every 500 animals.
- 4 Second inspectors, 1 to every 500 animals.
- 20 Head muccadums, 1 to every 100 animals.
- 80 Second muccadums, 1 to every 25 animals.
- 1 Driver to every 2 animals.
- 2 Weighing men.
- 4 Biggaries.

If the number of animals with the force amounts to, say:

- 20,000 Mules or pack bullocks,
- 8,000 Camels,

the following number of officers will be required, viz:—

- 14 Captains,
- 28 Subalterns.

Of this number, the following have been appointed, and are employed as follows:

- Captain F. P. Bartholomew, Bombay Staff Corps, Egypt.
- Captain C. Griffith, Bombay Staff Corps, Head Quarters, Poona.
- Lieutenant H. A. Hobson, 22d N. I., Persian Gulf.
- „ I. B. Hennell, Bombay Staff Corps, Massowa.
- „ F. J. Mortimer, R. H. A., Bombay Staff Corps, Massowa.
- „ C. S. Sturt, Bombay Staff Corps, Sholapoor.
- „ W. Luckhardt, H. M. 109th Regiment, Egypt.
- „ F. Caldecott, R. H. A., Ahmednuggur.

2. I require at this present moment, for duty, the services of 3 captains and 4 subalterns, as they are urgently wanted to relieve the Commissariat Officers at the Presidency and out-stations, of the duty now imposed on them in collecting animals, followers, and equipments appertaining to the Transport Train.

3. It is very desirable that an experienced captain should be sent up to Massowa, with the force about to embark on or about the 4th proximo. He will take with him the establishment above set forth, and, with the assistance of Lieuts. Hennell and Mortimer, commence placing such animals and followers as may be brought there into something like order.

4. The under-mentioned animals and followers are being collected and the following equipments are being made up, viz:—

POONA DIVISION.

1,000 Tattoos.	3,600 Camel equipments.
4,000 Pack bullocks.	3,000 Mule and tattoo equipments.
1,800 Muleteers,	4,000 Pack bullock equipments.
1,600 Camel drivers.	100 Camel pucks.
560 Dooly bearers.	300 Mule pucks.

At Kurrachee.

2,500 Camel equipments, and
200 Dooly bearers.

At Mhow.

1,500 Camel equipments.

At Deesa.

100 Camel men.
30 Muleteers.
200 Dooly bearers.

At Belgaum.

50 Muleteers.
100 Dooly bearers.

At Bombay.

300 Camelmen.
200 Muleteers.

From Madras Presidency 500 dooly bearers are expected.

5. I have fixed the following rate of pay, with warm clothing, free rations on leaving India, and return passage; viz:—

Chief inspectors	-	-	at Rs. 120 per month.
Second inspectors	-	-	80 "
Weighing men	-	-	30 "
Head muccadums	-	-	15 "
Second muccadums	-	-	12 "

Camel drivers	-	-	-	} Rs. 10 each per month.
Muleteers	-	-	-	
Pack and draft bullock drivers	-	-	-	
Tattoo wallas	-	-	-	
Syces	-	-	-	
Dooly bearers	-	-	-	
Beggarees	-	-	-	
Peons	-	-	-	

6. As it is absolutely necessary, I have sanctioned the entertainment of two sets of artificers' establishments, each of the following strength, one to proceed with the force about to embark on or about the 4th proximo to Massowa, and one to remain at Poona for the present, viz.:—

8 First assistant nuluhund	-	-	-	at Rs. 33 each per month.
13 Second assistant nuluhund	-	-	-	22 "
1 Head smith	-	-	-	45 per month.
8 Smiths	-	-	-	22 each per month.
1 Head carpenter	-	-	-	45 "
6 Carpenters	-	-	-	22 "
1 Head mochee	-	-	-	25 "
10 Mochees	-	-	-	22 "
1 Head rope maker	-	-	-	45 per month.
6 Rope makers	-	-	-	22 each per month.
8 Bellows boys	-	-	-	9 "
8 Hammer men	-	-	-	13 "

7. With such a large number of cattle, a veterinary establishment is necessary, and is under consideration.

8. I have authorized the Director of Transport Train entertaining the following Office Establishment, viz.:—

1 Head clerk	-	-	-	at Rs. 250 per month.
1 Second clerk	-	-	-	150 "
1 Third clerk	-	-	-	100 "
1 Fourth clerk	-	-	-	80 "
1 Fifth clerk	-	-	-	60 "
1 Moonshee	-	-	-	50 "
1 Naique of peons	-	-	-	12 "
4 Peons	-	-	-	10 "

but, considering the very liberal staff allowance of the officers under Major Warden and the nature of the duties to be entrusted to them, I do not consider it at all necessary allowing them any office establishment, as in field service the correspondence ought to be as little as possible, and whatever there may be must be conducted by the officers themselves.

9. The payment of the followers to be made in the presence of Officers, the acquittance rolls being prepared by their inspectors, but which acquittance roll is to be initialled by the Officer before whom the payment may be made.

10. It must be admitted that amongst such a mass of followers collected from all parts of the world, and of various creeds and castes, some organization is indispensable, and it is a matter of serious import, considering the peculiar service, and in a comparatively unknown country, far distant from India, as to how this is to be accomplished.

11. I am convinced that placing this heterogenous mass entirely under military organization, as was attempted with the late Persian Land Transport Corps, would not answer, but I do think that by a careful selection of the Officers and subordinates, allowing the followers (be they camelmen, muleteers, &c.) to choose their own 2nd muccadums, and above all by kind treatment combined with firmness, will in the end prove efficacious.

12. I beg to add that calling the various commands of 2,000 animals as they are formed by the term "Division," is merely a matter of convenience, and will not, I consider, be likely to produce either difficulty or confusion, any more than would be met in detaching details from regiments; the Officers would not be permanently posted to any particular number of animals, but be ready to move whenever or wherever ordered with any quota of animals, &c.

13. As it is of great importance that the formation of the Transport Train should be permitted to proceed with the utmost expedition in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Government Resolution under reference, more especially as there is some prospect of the main portion of the force leaving India between 15th November and 1st December next, I beg that the Officers who have been or may hereafter be applied for, may be placed at my disposal with the least possible delay.

14. I trust the above arrangements will meet with the approval of his Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.

I have, &c.,

J. B. DUNSTERVILLE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Commissary-General of the Army.

Enclosure 16 in No. 823.

Resolution of the Bombay Government.

September 28, 1867.

Sanctioned, with the following slight modification:—

The chief inspector to every 500 animals should, if practicable, be European non-commissioned officers. In place of four second inspectors, there should be eight (native non-commissioned officers if

practicable), one to every 250 animals; and in place of 20 head mucedums only 16, or one to every 125 animals.

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 17 in No. 823.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Adjutant-General of the Bombay Army.

Sir, September 20, 1867.

The question of the conditions on which the recent nominations of officers of Her Majesty's British Regiments to the Land Transport Corps ought to be made, having been raised by the accompanying note from his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's military secretary, I am desired to request that the subject may receive immediate attention, and report from your department in order to its prompt settlement.

The nominations hitherto made by Government being for a temporary service were not regarded as necessarily qualifying the officers for the Staff Corps, or consequently as warranting any regimental promotions in their place.

I have, &c.,
W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 18 in No. 823.

The Adjutant-General of the Bombay Army to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir, Head Quarters, Poona, September 26, 1867.

In answer to your letter of the 20th instant, I am desired by the Commander-in-Chief to say that Lieutenant-Colonel Dillon is correct in stating that the Commissariat Department is one of those which does not require probationary service in a native regiment to enter the Staff Corps; but I am to add that an officer cannot enter the Commissariat as a probationer, unless he has passed the higher standard.

The Land Transport Corps is not a permanent institution, though under the Commissariat Department, and his Excellency is of opinion that service in it can only be considered of a temporary nature, and as such not qualifying for the Staff Corps.

The Commander-in-Chief would, however, suggest that officers of Her Majesty's service who have passed the higher standard, and are probationers for the Staff Corps, be permitted to count service with the Land Transport Corps as qualifying for the Staff Corps, in the same manner as if they were serving with a native regiment, the service being of a similar nature.

Other officers who are not probationers would merely be considered as on staff employ of a temporary nature.

I have, &c.,
T. STOCK, Colonel,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

Enclosure 19 in No. 823.

Resolution of the Bombay Government.

28th September 1867.

His Excellency in Council concurs with the Adjutant-General's letter, excepting that no one, however qualified, should be considered as *ipso facto* a probationer for the Staff Corps in consequence of appointment to the Land Transport Corps of the Abyssinian force.

The appointments are only of a temporary character, for a special purpose, and therefore his Excellency in Council conceives that the question of qualification for the Staff Corps by these appointments should not be allowed to arise.

W. F. MARRIOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 20 in No. 823.

The Quartermaster-General of the Bombay Army to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir, September 5, 1867.

His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor having placed your services temporarily at the disposal of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to conduct a reconnoissance on the coast of Abyssinia, which Her Majesty's Government has ordered to be undertaken preparatory to the despatch of an expeditionary force, I am desired by his Excellency Sir Robert Napier to enclose a memorandum enumerating generally the points to which the attention of your reconnoitring party should be directed.

The object of the reconnoissance, &c., and all circumstances connected with it, are so well known to you, that the memorandum is rather required to bring the object of the reconnoissance into one view, than for your instruction and guidance.

The following officers are attached to the expedition, and have been directed to place themselves under your orders :—

Lieut.-Colonel Wilkins, Royal Engineers.
 Captain Goodfellow, Royal Engineers.
 Lieutenant Jopp, Royal Engineers.
 Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster-General.
 Captain Pottinger, Royal Artillery.
 Major Mignon, Assistant Commissary-General.
 Lieutenant Hennell, 18th N. I.
 Lieutenant Mortimer, R. H. A.

Upon each of the principal officers will devolve the duty of drawing up separate reports of the proceedings of the expedition relating to his own department. These reports will be addressed to you, and his Excellency suggests that you will be so good as to forward them with your own report to my address as soon as possible.

R. PHAYRE, Lieut.-Colonel,
 Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure 21 in No. 823.

Memorandum by the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army.

September 6, 1867.

The expedition will consist of a force that may be stated in round numbers :

4,000 British,
 8,000 Native troops;

with at least an equal number of camp followers, and 25,000 head of cattle of various kinds.

All of these cannot arrive at once, but it will be well to assume that one-fourth of the number may arrive together or within very short intervals.

It is probable that as many as 150 transports may be assembled at one time.

Points requiring attention.

A good harbour or roadstead.

A good shore for landing.

A plentiful supply of good water as near the beach as possible, and a report, as far as ascertainable, of its quality at all seasons.

A convenient, healthy locality for the dépôt of stores on first landing, to be called Post No. 1, with room for the sheds, encampment of troops, picketing of horses and other animals, immediately after their being landed and pending their removal to a greater distance.

A suitable situation for the camp of the troops to protect the dépôt on shore.

A position, which will not interfere with the encampment of the troops, for the encampment of the native followers who will probably collect and remain during the expedition, as well as those who may merely halt there on their way with the force.

A position for collecting and organizing the land transport for the force as it is gradually landed, where large numbers of cattle can be picketed, fed, and watered; also herded for pasture in the day.

It is certain that there will be required some protection for the cattle thus collected up to the time that the advanced brigade is established at a Post No. 2 on the highland and even subsequent to that time, and that a force of perhaps a regiment of cavalry and one of infantry may remain there for some weeks.

The nearer that this spot is to the landing place, the greater will be the facility of supplying all stores and equipment.

It is also to be taken into consideration that, if the above spot should be found near the coast, it may be necessary to seek for an encampment for the British troops at a higher elevation, in case they should be detained for some time before it were found convenient to move on to the table land.

An elevated healthy spot should be looked for; the situation of this place would depend upon the existence of abundant natural forage, water, and salubrity.

The foregoing conditions are very important if not indispensable.

It is hoped the reconnoitering party may succeed in obtaining them at a point of the sea shore which will give the shortest approach to the healthy table land, where Post No. 2 may be established.

As far as can at present be determined, it is proposed that an entrepôt for provisions shall be formed, and a brigade stationed there, probably until the return of the expedition.

Much more value is attached to the attainment of a convenient point of debarkation, and of an easy march to the healthy and cooler highland through a tract supplied with water and forage, than to any saving of distance by striking the probable line of advance a little further on in the direction of our march to the capital of Theodorus.

There will be little value in a gain of distance which shall detain our troops in the low land, as it is not proposed to take any but pack carriage beyond Post No. 2, up to which point, however, it is proposed to open a cart road for artillery and stores, as soon as it may be possible.

It is to be remembered that it will be necessary to establish and provision several posts of considerable strength, to maintain the communications, and that during the passage of the force the connecting roads will be improved. It would be inconvenient to expend this labour on a line which would be untenable in the hot weather, and to be liable to shift the connecting posts during the operations.

With reference to the communication between the landing place and the highland, it will probably not be difficult to find a track which, taking advantage of any natural facilities of the country, may be

made passable for wheeled carriages with moderate labour, while a more direct route might be found for pack carriage.

After the foregoing and general points have been considered and disposed of, the Officers of the Engineer's and Quartermaster-General's Department should make a rapid reconnoissance of the country for a space of from five to 10 miles radius from the landing place, according to the nature of the ground, and prepare such sketches of the routes as they can make without too great a detention.

It is of course desirable that the reconnoissance should be extended as far into the highland of Abyssinia as may be practicable, but in this matter Colonel Merewether will be guided by his knowledge of the country so as not to compromise the safety of any of his party.

It is desirable that the first examination should be made at Annesley Bay, because it is the nearest point and there will have been less time for the proceedings of the party to attract attention in the country.

It is necessary that some one well acquainted with the different descriptions of forage should accompany the expedition, to report on the quality of that which may be met with, sufficient samples of which might be brought down to the landing place.

R. NAPIER.

Enclosure 22 in No. 823.

Memorandum by the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army, in continuation of previous instructions to Lieut.-Colonel Merewether, C.B.

Poona, September 14, 1867.

A committee will be formed as follows :—

President.

Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether, C.B.

Members.

Lieutenant-Colonel Phayre, Quartermaster-General,
Lieutenant-Colonel Wilkins, Royal Engineers,
The Senior Naval Officer,
The Senior Medical Officer,

to decide on the point of debarkation, after weighing fully all the information they may obtain and the reports of the several departments which form the expedition.

For deciding all points not connected with the port and landing places, the same committee will be formed with the exception of the naval member.

The following points of information should be obtained, if possible :—

The nature of the supplies, description of grain, natural forage for horses and camels in the country between the port and Antalo, also in Lasta and the Zabul.

The arrangements that may be practicable to engage the services of any of the tribes on the coast, for securing communications, and the protection of forage parties or cattle.

The nature of any arrangements that are practicable for securing the transport of supplies by local carriage, from the coast for such distance inland as may be safe for such description of carriage.

Every information of the nature and extent of carriage obtainable for purchase or hire, and how any obtained will be equipped with gear and drivers.

With reference to the respective duties of the Officers of Royal Engineers and the Quartermaster-General's department, it may be observed that the more especial duties of the Royal Engineers will be the capabilities of the shore for construction of landing piers, floating wharves, shelter of all kinds, wells for water. The military value of any position selected as regards defensive facilities or security from approach; the security in position of the selected posts for securing the communications; general reconnoissance.

The Commander-in-Chief relies on the cordial and harmonious working of all Officers to subdivide the general work to the best advantage.

The Commander-in-Chief particularly desires every officer connected with the reconnoissance to be strictly guided by the instructions and wishes of Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether, who is responsible that no unnecessary risks are run.

The strictest discipline must be maintained amongst the camp followers.

R. NAPIER,
Lieut.-General, Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure 23 in No. 823.

The Quartermaster-General of the Bombay Army to the Political Resident at Aden, on Special Duty on the Abyssinian Coast."

Sir,

Poona, September 15, 1867.

With reference to the instructions already conveyed to you, I have the honour, by desire of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to forward to you the enclosed memorandum by the Right Honble. the Governor in Council, regarding various points connected with the duties in which you are now employed.

You will be so good as to report your progress in the several measures therein noted whenever opportunity offers, by the speediest means.

(4260.)

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With reference to the instructions in the last paragraph, you are authorized to take into employment such portions of the tribes as you may find necessary and expedient for guards, for forage parties, and escorts, should you be of opinion that they can be made useful and are trustworthy, making any communication that you think necessary to the Egyptian authorities.

You are further authorized to withdraw the company of Sappers now at Aden, and to take any timber or materials in the Engineer Department required for landing-places, &c., as soon as you can employ them.

The whole or a part of the first brigade will probably leave Bombay in about three weeks for the Abyssinian coast for the protection of the depôt; until their arrival the reconnoitring party should never be left without the services of a steamer in attendance.

I have, &c.,

M. A. DILLON, Lieut.-Colonel,
For Deputy Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure 24 in No. 823.

Memorandum by the Governor of Bombay in Council.

September 15, 1867.

The reconnoitring party will have a duty cast upon them beyond that which was at first contemplated when it was proposed to send a small force into the country to report on the best landing place, to inquire into the best route which an invading army could take, and the resources which the country itself could provide for its transport and maintenance.

The first point that will have to be attended to will be that the point selected for disembarkation must be so situated as to give facility for approach to vessels drawing a considerable quantity of water, with good anchorage and natural protection; and, what must not be forgotten, with ample space where a considerable number of vessels of large size can lie during the time they are awaiting discharge. It is possible that about the time of the arrival of Head Quarters there may be more than a hundred sail congregated at or near the point of disembarkation, and the selection of a harbour or roadstead for such a force, if such exist at all, will be a matter of great difficulty.

The Officers of the Marine who accompany the party will, if a point be found which is favourably circumstanced as regards extent, holding ground, protection from storms, &c., have to take the necessary soundings to buoy the approach if required, and to establish such landmarks, &c. as shall enable vessels to reach the anchorage without danger.

There should be, if possible, several points of landing, at sufficient distance from each other to avoid crowding, where, if facilities exist for the purpose, temporary jetties of stone should be constructed of sufficient width for the landing of heavy stores. It is proposed also to provide a sufficient number of lighters that may be planked and lashed together, to form floating piers. Steamers and barges will be provided for the disembarkation.

It would be an object, therefore, not only to secure a sufficient space for the transports, but, if possible, a spot where there would be a sufficient extent of shore to provide facilities for constructing several landing places, so as to permit of the disembarkation of men and stores at several points at the same time.

The position of Ansley Bay, which in the opinion of his Excellency should be the point first examined, appears to offer great advantages; but the attention of the naval Officers should be directed to the north, from which quarter strong gales are often experienced, and the position of a fleet under such circumstances in a deep bay extending for some miles inland, and with no exit but to the north, might be one of extreme risk. Even if there should be no probability of danger, still a continuance of north winds may make disembarkation difficult. Accurate inquiries must therefore be made as to the prevailing winds at the period of year when it is proposed the disembarkation shall take place, and their effect on the waters of the bay.

As soon as the point of disembarkation is decided on, measures should be adopted to give effect to that decision. No time should then be lost in communicating it to Captain Willoughby at Suez, and to the British Consul there, in case of the absence of Captain Willoughby and the officers who have accompanied him, and also to the Consul-General at Cairo, with a view to the information being telegraphed without loss of time to the Government and to the Secretary of State.

Captain Willoughby or the officers acting for him should be directed at the same time to send the animals they may have collected to the selected point without delay. As an alternative means of communication, the despatch boat should be sent to intercept the first steamer in its passage to Bombay, and for this purpose of speedy communication, all steamers leaving Aden or Suez during the continuance of the expedition will be required to be on the look out for any vessel that may from time to time be despatched by Colonel Merewether off the island of Jubel-tier.

The attention of Colonel Merewether should be directed at the earliest moment after the selection of the point of debarkation to the probabilities of our obtaining from the country transport animals, labourers, and supplies. He will be authorized to enter into arrangements with the chiefs of the neighbouring tribes with this view, and it should be his object to report the fullest information on this point by the speediest means.

With reference to the establishment of a depôt of coal, which is a point of urgent importance, Colonel Merewether should secure at once whatever supply may be at present available at Massowah belonging to the Egyptian Government or steam companies, and it would be well if, on his passage through Aden, he were to give directions for the shipment of as large a quantity as he can obtain from thence, and its despatch to Massowah, where the master of the vessel should find directions as to the point to which he is to proceed for discharge.

It is hoped that means may be found to establish a telegraphic wire between Massowah and Souakin, to which post the Egyptian line is either formed or in process of construction. Even if this be not so,

however, there is stated to be constant steam communication between Suez and Souakin, and it may be possible for Colonel Merewether to make arrangements with the Pacha at Massowah for the establishment of a regular camel dawk between these two places.

A sufficient strength of Sappers and Miners and of coolies will be despatched in about three weeks from this time, with a guard for the animals that about that time will begin to arrive or be collected, and active preparations should be made for the reception of the forces which are to follow. For this purpose the materials for six large Commissariat sheds will be sent from Bombay, as also a tramway and waggons to be used for the debarkation of stores, and a large supply of miscellaneous timber.

As information has arrived that a letter from Lord Stanley to King Theodorus, announcing the despatch of the force under Sir Robert Napier, will reach Aden about the 26th instant, the despatch steamer should be left behind to bring this letter on to Colonel Merewether as soon as it shall have been despatched to the King, and the announcement of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that he has taken the command of the liberating force shall have been made public. Colonel Merewether will be at liberty to enter into communication with any of the Native chiefs who, he may think, will be able to render us assistance, but he should reserve the completion of any convention or other act regulating our relations with the chiefs until the arrival or receipt of instructions from Sir Robert Napier.

The friendly co-operation of the Egyptian Government in all the preparations that it may be requisite to make has been secured, but Colonel Merewether should take care to make it evident by all means that the force is not acting in alliance with, or in the interest of, the Egyptian authorities, but in our own quarrel and for our own objects alone. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will doubtless take steps to make it clearly understood that the expedition is directed against Theodorus, and not the people of Abyssinia; but Colonel Merewether should be authorized to make any necessary expenditure on behalf of the Government to conciliate the population and secure their goodwill.

Enclosure 25 in No. 823.

The Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army to the Officer commanding at Aden.

Sir,

Poona, September 15, 1867.

I am directed by his Excellency Sir Robert Napier to request that you will be so good as to comply with the requirements of Lieutenant-Colonel Merewether, C.B., Political Resident at Aden (employed on special duty on the Abyssinian coast), to the extent of placing at his disposal one company of the Sappers of the Aden garrison, and any timber or materials in the Engineer Department which he may consider necessary to form landing-places, &c. &c. on the coast of Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

M. A. DILLON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Military Secretary.

No. 824.

The Governor of Bombay in Council to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received Oct. 21st, 1867.)

No. 23. Financial.

Right Honourable Sir,

Bombay Castle, 28th September 1867.

In continuation of our Despatch No. 22, dated 9th instant, we beg to subjoin No. 576.
copy of a telegram forwarded to you by us from Poona on that date :— No. 274.

“ The Accountant-General suggests that Captain Willoughby, who has been sent to Egypt to purchase mules, should be authorized to draw bills on London, as well as on Bombay. If you have no objection, please instruct him. His credit is for ten lacs.”

The Accountant-General suggested this course, as it seemed questionable whether Captain Willoughby would be able to negotiate his drafts on Bombay to the extent of ten lacs, and, if he were, it would be at a very great loss. But we have since learned that Colonel Clark Kennedy was sent from England to purchase mules in Egypt, and we have instructed Captain Willoughby to leave the matter in his hands. Captain Willoughby, therefore, can have had no occasion to draw for any considerable sum.

We have, &c.,

WM. R. SEYMOUR V. FITZGERALD.
R. NAPIER.
B. H. ELLIS.
S. MANSFIELD.

No. 825.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Mr. T. PLOWDEN.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 22, 1867.

No. 735.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to inform you that he has been in communication with the India Office upon the subject of your letter of the 14th instant, and that his Lordship sees no objection to the letter which you propose to address to the King of Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 826.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 22nd October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed extract of a letter which has been received from Mr. Charles Manby, C.E., relative to an offer, on the part of Jeffrey Bey, of his services in the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 826.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. MANBY.

24, Great George Street, Westminster,
14th October 1867.

"The bearer, Jeffrey Bey, was for nearly ten years the locomotive engineer of the Egyptian Government Railway.

"He speaks Arabic, Italian, and other languages, and is well up to everything connected with Eastern life. He has great experience in the management of men, and I need not say that he is a first-rate mechanical engineer.

"He has asked me for an introduction to see whether his services can be made useful in the Abyssinian campaign.

"If there be anything which required skill of his kind, energy and determination, I can answer for his doing it, and he may be thoroughly trusted in any capacity."

No. 827.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir,

India Office, 22d October 1867.

Enclosure 3
in No. 725.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that his attention has been drawn to the circumstance that, in the list forwarded by the Army Medical Department of the Medical Officers selected for service with the Abyssinian force (which was transmitted by you to the War Office on the 8th instant), a passage is requested for Staff Surgeon C. D. Madden, "and one for male servant;" and I am desired to request that he may be informed whether, in the opinion of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, it is desirable that any servants, other than soldier-servants, should be allowed to accompany the expedition from this country.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 828.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 22d October 1867.

Nos. 725,
793, and 817.

With reference to your letters of the 14th and 21st instant, and to my letter of the 18th, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that the vessel selected to convey the Engineer detachments and Medical Officers to Alexandria

is the steam-ship "Mendoza," and that she will sail from Woolwich on the 4th of November.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 829.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General, Horse Guards.

Sir, India Office, 22d October 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 17th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that instructions may be given to the detachments of Royal Engineers and the Medical Officers selected for service in Abyssinia to embark on board the steam-ship "Mendoza" from the Royal Arsenal Pier at Woolwich on the morning of the 4th of November, and on their arrival at Suez to await instructions from the Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary force.

2. I am desired to add that it has been assumed that no passages will be required for women on board this ship.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 830.

The Militia Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant St. John, R.E., and Lieutenant Le Messurier, R.E.

Sir, India Office, 22d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will embark on board the steam-ship "Mendoza" from the Arsenal Pier at Woolwich on the morning of the 4th of November, and that on your arrival at Suez you will await instructions from Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian expeditionary force.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 831.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

Sir, India Office, 22d October 1867.

With reference to the last paragraph of my letter dated the 18th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that the second mountain battery intended for the use of the Abyssinian force will be despatched, with other stores to the aggregate weight of about 800 tons, on board the steam-ship "Mendoza," which will leave Woolwich on the 4th of November.

2. Passage has been provided on board this vessel for four Officers of the Royal Engineers, with the detachments under their command, numbering about 65 men, and for 18 Medical Officers, proceeding to join the expedition; and I have to request that you will take the necessary measures for providing conveyance for the above-mentioned Officers and men from Alexandria to Suez, where they will receive instructions from the Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian force.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 832.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 22, 1867.

We shall obtain for you about 8,000 mules, but we provide only 5,000 pack-saddles. Can you manage for the rest of the saddles?

No. 833.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 22d October 1867.

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that my Lords have been pleased, at the request of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, to detach Mr. Charles G. Turner, a clerk from the Transport Department of the Admiralty, with a view to his proceeding to Bombay to co-operate with the Officers of the Indian Government for the purpose of facilitating the examination of the accounts of the expenditure to be incurred on account of the Abyssinian expedition.

I am, &c.,

W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 834.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 22, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Mr. E. H. Walker, British Vice-Consul at Tripoli, who is now on leave in this country, offering to give all the information in his power respecting the approaches to the interior of Abyssinia, and I am to request that you will state to Sir S. Northcote, that, in case he should wish to communicate with Mr. Walker, Lord Stanley will instruct that officer to call at the India Office.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 835.

The Consul in Corsica to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
(Received October 23.)

My Lord,

Bastia, October 16, 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Murray's Despatch, dated October 10, informing me that your Lordship communicated with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War, relative to the offer of mules made by a resident of Bastia, and I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have advised M. Limperani (ancien Député), who made that offer, "that if any further mules should be required it shall not be lost sight of."

I have, &c.,

EDWARD SMALLWOOD.

No. 836.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 23, 1867.

I communicated to the India Office your Despatch of the 10th instant, and I have been informed by Sir Stafford Northcote that, under the circumstances set forth therein, he does not consider it advisable to employ Michael Beschir in the expedition to Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,

STANLEY.

No. 837.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 23d October 1867.

With reference to Major-General Pears's letter of the 2d ultimo, conveying the approval of the Secretary of State for India of the arrangement proposed by the Director-

General of the Army Medical Department in connexion with the hospital ships of the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Army Medical Department, recommending, for the reasons therein given, that an extra Staff Assistant Surgeon should be despatched from this country for each of the hospital ships in question, and I am to request that Sir John Pakington may be informed of Sir Stafford Northcote's views upon this suggestion.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 837.

The Director-General of the Army Medical Department to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir, Army Medical Department, 16th October 1867.
I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, copy of a communication which has been addressed to the Adjutant-General of Her Majesty's Forces at Poona by Inspector-General A. Gordon, M.D., Principal Medical Officer in Bombay; and with reference to paragraph 4 of the enclosed duplicate I beg to submit, for His Royal Highness's consideration, that, as I do not consider one Surgeon and one Assistant Surgeon for each ship sufficient for the due care and treatment of the number of sick each is capable of accommodating, should they ever be filled, and as it appears that Dr. Gordon has not provided a reserve of Medical Officers upon which the Surgeons in charge of the ships can rely for aid if necessary, I am of opinion an extra Staff Assistant Surgeon should be despatched from this country for each of the three hospital ships now proceeding to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
J. G. LOGAN,
Director-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 837.

The Inspector-General of the British Medical Service at Bombay to the Adjutant-General of the Bombay Army.

Sir, Bombay, 10th September 1867.
I have the honour to request that you will be pleased to inform me whether it is the intention of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that an Inspector-General of Hospitals, British troops, should accompany the force proceeding under his Excellency's command to Abyssinia.
With reference to the force detailed in your letter dated 7th instant, I am of opinion that a Medical Officer should be attached to each battery of artillery, and a Surgeon, with two Assistant Surgeons, to each regiment of infantry, making a total of 17 regimental Medical Officers; the squadron of cavalry can be attached to the artillery.

In addition, the following number of Medical Officers should be directed to join the force from England, viz.:—

- 1 Deputy Inspector-General.
- 1 Staff Surgeon-Major (sanitary officer).
- 2 Staff Surgeons-Major (one for each division).
- 4 Staff Surgeons (two for each division.)
- 8 Staff Assistant Surgeons (four for each division).

Total - - 16

It is presumed that, if hospital ships are sent from England, a sufficient number of medical officers, purveyors, dispensers, &c. will accompany the vessels for permanent duty on board.

The foregoing Medical Staff would appear to me to be indispensable for the efficiency of the service.

I have, &c.,
A. GORDON,
Inspector-General.

No. 838.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 23d October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a memorandum by

the President of the Ordnance Select Committee suggesting a particular kind of "carrying strap" for use with the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 838.

Minute by the President of the Ordnance Select Committee, October 10, 1867.

I am desirous of offering a small suggestion in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition. It is that 500 of what are known throughout the Hudson Bay Territory as carrying straps be provided. They are simply a brow-band with a continuation on either side of some six or eight feet long, and are the best contrivance for portage that I have ever seen. The Turkish Hanimals, notoriously the strongest porters in Europe, use the same or nearly the same thing; the load rests above the hips, and is supported by the whole spinal column from the brow, assisted by the arms, which are free. The ordinary load of a voyageur is 180 lbs. I have seen a man carry nearly 400 lbs. The Turkish porters are said to go much beyond this, and I am confident that there is no arrangement by which a man can carry a load with such ease to himself.

J. H. LEFROY.

No. 839.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

War Office, 23d October 1867.

In reply to your letter of the 16th ultimo, transmitting a communication addressed by Mr. John Whitford to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you that Mr. Whitford's freezing apparatus is not considered so suitable for hospital service as Keith's ice-making machine, which is capable of producing four pounds of block ice in less than half an hour by a very simple process.

I am therefore to recommend that three of the latter be sent to Aden for the use of the hospital ships of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 840.

The Assistant Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Bank of England, 23d October 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 18th instant, I beg to enclose the bills of lading, in triplicate, for 50,000 sovereigns, shipped per Peninsular and Oriental steamer "Syria" to Aden, and likewise a statement of the charges for freight, &c., amounting to 1,003l. 10s., which sum has been placed to the debit of the drawing account of the Secretary of State for India.

I am, &c.,
S. O. GRAY,
Assistant Chief Cashier.

Enclosure in No. 840.

Statement of the expenses attending the shipment of 50,000 sovereigns, per Peninsular and Oriental steamer "Syria," to Aden, on account of the Secretary of State for India.

	£	s.	d.
10 cases, tin lined, &c. @ 4/4	-	-	2 3 4
50 bags, @ 4/9 per dozen	-	-	0 19 10
Cartage	-	-	0 5 0
Bills of lading	-	-	0 1 10
Freight of 50,000L, at 2°/o	-	-	1,000 0 0
			£1,003 10 0

Bank of England, 23d October 1867.

S. O. GRAY.

No. 841.

The Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Bank of England, 23d October 1867.

I beg to hand you, enclosed, the bill of lading of a further shipment of 150,000 Maria Theresa dollars, per Austrian Lloyd's steamer to Alexandria, and to inform you that the drawing account of the Secretary of State for India has been debited 31,693*l*. 11*s*. on account of this shipment.

I am, &c.,
F. MAY,
Deputy Chief Cashier.

No. 842.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Italian Ambassador.

Foreign Office, 23d October 1867.

Lord Stanley presents his compliments to the Marquis d'Azeglio, and has the honour to return, with his best thanks, the accompanying note which the Marquis d'Azeglio No. 813. was so good as to communicate to him.

No. 843.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 23d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that 500 sticks No. 755. and 50 portfires should be sent with the signal rockets required for the field telegraph train for Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 844.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 23d October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that, while he is of opinion that a good supply of dubbing, if thoroughly fit in quality and sufficient in quantity, would be likely to be very useful to the troops in Abyssinia, he cannot but fear that the composition mentioned in the Deputy Adjutant-General's letter may have deteriorated during the twelve years that it must have been in store. No. 787.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 845.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 24th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a letter received this day from Messrs. Grazebrook relative to the supply of mules.

I am, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 845.

Messrs. GRAZEBROOK and Co. to the Director of Contracts, War Office.

Scot's Yard, Bush Lane, Cannon Street, E.C.,
October 23, 1867.

Sir,

We take the liberty to address you concerning the supply of mules for the Abyssinian expedition. We know of certain localities where a considerable number can be obtained, and from whence we can rapidly transport them to such ports in the Red Sea as may be selected.

Mr. Joyce Percival, the well-known African traveller, who has lately been writing in the "Times" concerning Abyssinia, has been engaged by us. He has travelled many times through Abyssinia, and among the various nations and tribes on both sides of the Red Sea, he speaks their languages, and is very popular with them and the Abyssinians, and he is a man of the most determined character.

"We will engage to deliver by the end of January, or earlier, into the charge of Her Majesty's officers at Massowah, or such other ports as may be required, 1,000 serviceable mules, to be approved of by these officers, and to be paid for at the rate of 31*l.* 10*s.* per head on approval."

We believe we can complete this delivery at a much earlier date, and we have already made arrangements that our staff, including Mr. Joyce Percival, can depart within two days of your acceptance.

Mr. Joyce Percival states, that the supply of mules required in that country will be beyond calculation, and, as we are prepared on the information we possess to risk our lives and money to supply them, we trust that our proposal may meet with your favourable consideration and be accepted, the more especially as we are informed that the cost of transport alone of those bought in Spain and elsewhere will greatly exceed the price we ask for mules delivered.

We think that Mr. Joyce Percival might be found able to render other essential services to the expedition, from his knowledge of the passes and the resources of Abyssinia and its neighbouring countries.

We are, &c.,
GRAZEBROOK and Co.

No. 846.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

India Office, 24th October 1867.

No. 783.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward a copy of a letter which has been addressed to him by the Secretary of the Zoological Society of London, recommending the appointment of a zoologist to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia; and I am desired to add that, as in the case of the similar proposition made by the trustees of the British Museum with respect to an archæologist, Sir Stafford Northcote will not object to such an appointment on military grounds, should the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury desire that such a gentleman should be attached to the force.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 847.

The Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 24th October 1867.

I have it in command to request you will have the goodness to inform me whether the ship "Mendoza" will call at Malta and Gibraltar on her way to Alexandria, as two of the Medical Officers ordered for service in Abyssinia are at those stations and might be embarked in the vessel should she touch there.

I am, &c.,
H. H. CLIFFORD,
Assistant Quartermaster-General.

No. 848.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 24, 1867.

No. 482.

With reference to your message of September 24th, we send, by a vessel which starts on November 4th, 13 of the Medical Officers of British Army asked for. The three others will join from Gibraltar, Malta, and Aden. We also send three extra Staff

Assistant Surgeons for hospital ships, and five of Bombay Army, which is all that are available here; but some have recently returned to duty at Bombay. All sent from this country will await Sir Robert Napier's orders at Suez.

No. 849.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 24th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, communicating the arrangements made by Colonel Kennedy for the purchase and freight of mules to Egypt, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition. No. 709.

2. With reference to the concluding paragraph of the memorandum, regarding the acceptance of pack-horses instead of mules, I have to refer you to my letter of the 12th instant, stating that Sir Stafford Northcote had no objection to the substitution of pack-horses for mules within the specified number of animals demanded from Bombay. No. 719.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 850.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 24th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and acquaint you in reply that, in the event of its being found necessary to obtain any animals other than mules for the purposes of the Abyssinian expedition, he would prefer that pack-horses should be purchased rather than donkeys, if they can be obtained within the specified time. No. 737.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 851.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 24th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the arrangement therein proposed respecting the means of providing Veterinary Surgeons for the Abyssinian force will be communicated to the Government of Bombay; and I am to request that the Officers who may be selected by Colonel Clark Kennedy for this purpose may be instructed, as soon as possible, to proceed to Suez, where they will receive instructions from the Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary force. No. 780.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 852.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Rev. K. M. PHIN.

Sir, India Office, 24th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the arrange- No. 751.

ments for the spiritual charge of the troops proceeding to Abyssinia will be made by the Government in India, and a copy of your letter on the subject will be forwarded to the Bombay Government.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 853.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, India Office, 24th October 1867.

No. 834.

In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, respecting the offer of Mr. E. H. Walker, British Vice-Consul at Tripoli (at present on leave in this country) to afford information regarding the approaches to the interior of Abyssinia, I am directed by Sir S. Northcote to request that Mr. Walker may be instructed to call at this office at his convenience, to give any information that may be in his power.

I am, &c.,
J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 854.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General in Council.
No. 304, Military.

Sir, India Office, 24th October 1867.

No. 795.

I forward for the information of your Excellency a copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Government of Bombay, containing instructions on the subjects of the reports to be made to Her Majesty's Government by Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., of the proceedings of the expeditionary force under his command, with a view to early information being received respecting the operations and requirements of the army in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 855.

Mr. FLOWDEN to the Under Secretary of State for India.

80, Gloucester Place, Portman Square,
24th October 1867.

Sir,

Enclosure in
No. 735.

I beg leave to enclose my letter to the Emperor of Abyssinia, of which, as I understand, you have been duly informed by the Foreign Office, for the purpose of being forwarded to that potentate, as I know of no way of sending it myself.

I am, &c.,
TREVOR C. FLOWDEN.

No. 856.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Captain BEAUMONT, R.E.

Dear Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

No. 710.

Sir John Pakington has forwarded, for the consideration of Sir Stafford Northcote, your note to him of the 11th instant, enclosing one from General Lefroy upon the subject of the proposal to make use of balloons in connexion with the contemplated operations in Abyssinia. Sir Stafford Northcote will be glad to receive from you some account of the balloon you would propose to use, and of the apparatus required to fill and to work it, the cost, weight, and convenience of transport, setting up, &c., and he will be glad to know whether, in suggesting its use on the present occasion, you have fully considered the difficulties of transport and the possibility of its not being at all times available at the precise time and place required. The impediments of the force will be great, and the roads of the worst description.

Yours very faithfully,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General.

Note in connexion with No. 856.

Memorandum by the President of the Ordnance Select Committee, on the Balloon Experiments made in the summer of 1863 at Aldershot and Woolwich.

I.

"Size and construction of balloon.

The balloon was the private property of a professional aeronaut. It held 30,000 cubic feet of common coal gas, supplied by the nearest gasworks.

II.

"Is it to be filled with heated air or any species of gas?"

See above. Hydrogen gas passes with comparative ease through the pores of silk and other fabrics which can retain other gases, and is not so easily generated in large quantities; hence it is not likely to be employed.

III.

"By using this apparatus in field arrangements, is it to be understood only the carrying of the requisites and utensils, or are the more necessary materials required, as acid and coals?"

There is no distinct provision yet made for a balloon equipment, nor are the requisites of one determined. It is not very probable that they will be provided for any excepting long operations conducted near the resources of a large depôt, such as a siege. In that case coals are always at hand. Acid will not be required if coal gas is used. Retorts would have to be supplied and a gasometer made.

IV.

"To what incidental height the ascension can be effected, what is the junction between the balloon and the office, and by what means can the correspondence be effected?"

A balloon of 30,000 cubic feet inflated with coal gas took up two men, and supported the weight of three ropes, each 1,500 feet long. The vertical height reached was 1,100 feet. No system of signalling was matured. That height is hardly beyond the reach of the voice. Written notes can be dropped with a light weight attached.

V.

"What is the capability of carrying of the balloons already in use, and how many men can ascend by a normal ascension?"

See the last answer. It is not likely that any balloon will be employed of larger size than to take two men with the requisites for observation, and to carry the necessary guy-ropes by which it is attached to the soil.

J. H. LEFROY,
Col. R.A.

30th October 1863.

No. 857.

The Consul at Trieste to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

(Received October 25.)

My Lord,

Trieste, October 15th, 1867.

Having seen in the public journals that Her Majesty's Government is at present treating for the supply of mules for the expedition to Abyssinia, I have thought it my duty to enclose for your Lordship's consideration a proposal for the supply.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES LEVER.

Enclosure in No. 857.

Translation of a Letter from M. BALDINI to the British Consul at Trieste.

Trieste, October 14, 1867.

It has come to my knowledge that the British Government are disposed to make a considerable purchase of mules, therefore I, the undersigned, offer to supply from 500 to 1,000, deliverable at Brindisi or Trieste, at the option of the British Government.

At present I ask the price of 25 "Napoléons d'or" for each mule, free on board ship, at either of the above-mentioned ports, and I engage myself to abide by all the conditions which shall be established in signing a formal contract, and to deliver animals from 13 to 14 hands high, and from 4 to 10 years old.

I have, &c.

A. BALDINI.

No. 858.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you, for the information of Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, the accompanying copy of a Despatch which has been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trieste, forwarding an offer to supply mules for the expedition to Abyssinia.

No. 857.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 859.

The Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Horse Guards, 25th October 1867.

No. 829.

In reference to India Office letter of 22d instant, I have it in command to, request you will be good enough to inform me whether the ship "Mendoza" will be ready for inspection (as regards the accommodation for the troops) on the 2d November, at Woolwich, as, if so, instructions will be given with regard to the attendance of officers for that purpose.

I am to state that it is presumed Lieutenants St. John and Le Messurier, Indian Engineers, will be embarked in the "Mendoza," under orders from the India Office.

The numbers of the detachment of Royal Engineers to embark in this vessel are as follows, one captain, two lieutenants, six serjeants, two buglers, 75 men.

The medical officers and the officers commanding the Royal Engineers will be instructed to report themselves on arrival at Alexandria to the Deputy-Quartermaster-General there.

I have, &c.

J. HOPE GRANT,
Quartermaster-General.

No. 860.

The Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Horse Guards, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to transmit the enclosed communication from Lieutenant McMahon, Military Train, and to request that I may be informed whether the Secretary of State for India will sanction five pack-saddles, of the pattern proposed by this officer, being made at the Government expense, under the superintendence of Lieutenant McMahon, for trial with the Abyssinian expedition, as His Royal Highness is very anxious that this saddle, with which the officer has taken very great trouble, should be fairly tried and reported on.

I have, &c.

J. HOPE GRANT,
Quartermaster-General.

Enclosure in No. 860.

Lieut. McMAHON to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir, 3, St. Germain's Place, Blackheath,
21 October 1867.

I have the honour to solicit that you may be pleased to submit and recommend to His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, this my respectful request that I may be

authorized to make *six* or *ten* pack-saddles of my invention, on the expansion principle, for service test in Abyssinia. The severe but impartial trial my saddles were subjected to recently, under the supervision of Colonel D'Aguilar, R.H.A., proves that they will fit any sized animal used for transport purposes without galling it.

I could have them made in quantity at 50s. each, but guarantee that a small number will be in readiness within three weeks from the date of the order at a cost of 3*l.* each. I shall also guarantee that any driver, native or foreign, will be able to adjust them satisfactorily in a few minutes.

As my invention has cost me much anxiety, time, and money, solely for the good of the service, I humbly hope that His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief will be graciously pleased to grant my request, which I know will be a success.

I have, &c.,

DONAT McMAHON,
Lieutenant, Military Train.

No. 861.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of the increase of the number of tube wells to be provided for the Abyssinian expedition, from 50 to 100, as recommended by the Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment,—the increased expense being met by reducing the number of driving apparatus, &c., from 20 to 10 (with extra nuts and screws, to meet contingencies).

No. 742.

Instructions have been given accordingly to the Director-General of Stores for this office, and Lieutenant Le Messurier has been desired to communicate with Mr. Norton, in order to ensure the perfect fitting of the various working parts.

No. 794.

The enclosure to your letter is returned, as requested.

I have, &c.

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 862.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and to acquaint you in reply that a copy of the papers respecting the Medical and Purveying Departments on board the hospital ships will be forwarded to the Government of Bombay, who will be instructed to bring all the officers of those departments on to the staff of the expeditionary force, from the date of their arrival at Aden.

No. 583.

I have, &c.

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 863.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit a copy of a letter which has been received from the War Office, relating to the respective merits of Whitford's freezing apparatus and Keith's ice-making machines; and I have to request that you will favour Sir Stafford Northcote with your opinion as to the desirability of supplying three of Keith's machines, for the use of the hospital ships attached to the Abyssinian expedition.

No. 839.

I have, &c.

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 864.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, requesting to be informed of the views of Sir S. Northcote with reference to the remuneration to be assigned to Mr. Markham, as Geographer to the Abyssinian expedition, and inquiring whether this office will be prepared to share with the Imperial Government the expense consequent on that gentleman's appointment.

In reply I am directed to state that Sir S. Northcote is of opinion that the remuneration to be assigned to Mr. Markham should be decided by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, but that he is prepared to place the services of that gentleman at the disposal of the Imperial Government, and to continue to him, for a period of six months, the half of his salary as an Assistant in the Correspondence Department of this office.

I have, &c.

HERMAN MERIVALE.

No. 865.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he concurs in the propriety of returning, to any application which may be made by Foreign Governments for permission to officers of their armies to accompany the Abyssinian expedition, an answer similar to that addressed to the representatives of the Italian, Belgian, and Netherlands Governments on the 19th instant.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 866.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward for the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury a copy of a letter from the Principal Librarian of the British Museum, dated the 15th inst., recommending that a competent archaeologist should accompany the force about to proceed to Abyssinia, whose duty it should be to collect inscriptions, coins, gems, manuscripts, and ethnographical and other objects, to be transported to the British Museum as occasion might offer, and soliciting authority for Mr. Deutsch to be sent with the expedition in that capacity.

An extract of a telegram, dated the 23d of September, from the Government of Bombay, respecting the desirability of attaching a few scientific gentlemen to the force, is also transmitted for the information of their Lordships; and I am desired to state that Sir Stafford Northcote sees no objection to a compliance with the wish expressed by the Trustees of the Museum, if it should be considered desirable to engage the services of Mr. Deutsch.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 867.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the London Society for promoting Christianity amongst the Jews.

Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and, in reply, to request that he may be

furnished with 200 stitched copies of the work therein mentioned, as soon as they can be made ready for transmission to the Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian force.

A requisition for the books will be made by the Director General of Stores for this office.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 868.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services,
Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the cost of No. 821. the conveyance of the telegraph stores and signalling apparatus to Suez will, in the first instance, be defrayed by this office.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 869.

Telegram from the Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India.
October 25, 1867.

In reply to
No. 804.

I have made arrangements for regular mails to be intercepted off Jebel Teer. Mail bags should be made up in London, marked Abyssinia, and, if not intercepted, to be taken on to Aden.

No. 870.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 25th October 1867.

With reference to Major-General Pears's letter of the 16th instant, I am directed No. 771. by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Horse Guards, dated the 22d instant, stating the arrangements which the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has caused to be made for amalgamating the detachments forming the Telegraphic, Signalling, and Photographic establishments connected with the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 870.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 22d October 1867.

I have laid before the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief your letter of the 17th instant, with its enclosure, from the India Office, relative to the suggestions contained in my communication No. 771. of the 10th instant for the better organization of the detachments of Royal Engineers under orders Enclosure in No. 685. to proceed to Abyssinia; and I am directed to request you will acquaint the Secretary of State for War, in reply, that, in accordance with the general sanction conveyed in the India Office letter above alluded to, His Royal Highness has issued instructions for amalgamating these detachments with the 10th Company, and organizing it on the reduced establishment of 83 Non-commissioned Officers and men, as proposed in my letter of the 10th instant.

(4260.)

3 M

Major G. D. Pritchard, Royal Engineers, has been appointed to proceed in command of the Company, and Lieutenants J. L. Morgan and A. R. Puzey (the subalterns selected for the detachments) will be posted to it forthwith.

I am to add that, agreeably to the understanding set forth in the concluding paragraphs of the India Office letter, Major Pritchard will be fully instructed as to the position and duties specially assigned to Lieutenants St. John and Le Messurier.

I have, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

No. 871.

The Political Resident at Aden to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

(Received October 25, 1867.)

My Lord,

Aden, 28th September 1867.

I have the honour to state that, on my return from Bombay on the 26th instant, I found your Lordship's Despatch of the 19th ultimo with accompaniments.

The messenger who brought Prince Menelek's letter was still in Aden awaiting the answer.

I have to-day delivered it to him with instructions to return at once to Aukoha. He will leave Aden in a few days for Zeyla, and will proceed by the route from that place.

The presents sent for Her Majesty the Queen, by Prince Menelek, were forwarded to England in July last, via Southampton. Your Lordship does not mention anything about return presents to the Prince, but, as I conclude your Lordship would not wish the messenger to return empty-handed after having brought presents with him, I have caused a few suitable articles of English manufacture to be selected from those sent out last November, which were then intended for the King Theodorus. It is not known to the messenger whom they were originally meant for. A list of the articles chosen will be submitted hereafter.

I trust the above will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.,
W. L. MEREWETHER, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Resident at Aden.

No. 872.

The Political Resident at Aden (on special duty) to the Secretary of State for India.

(Received October 25, 1867.)

Sir,

Annesley Bay, 9th October 1867.

I have the honour to forward copy of my latest Despatch to the Government of Bombay, relating to Abyssinian affairs.

I have, &c.,
W. L. MEREWETHER, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding Reconnoitring Field Force.

Enclosure in No. 872.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. MEREWETHER, C.B., Commanding Reconnoitring Field Force, to the Secretary to the Bombay Government.

Sir,

Annesley Bay, 9th October, 1867.

Just as I had closed my Despatch of to-day to the Secretary to Government Military Department, and the steamer "Coromandel" was about to leave, messengers arrived with letters from Magdala up to the 7th September, and from Debra Tabor to the 13th August.

2. Mr. Rassam writes from the former that they were all well, notwithstanding that fever of a typhoid nature was carrying off daily some of the native dwellers on the mountains. They were sorely pressed for money, owing to the sums sent up for them not having reached. 2,000 dollars were despatched on the 14th July, but the bearers remained at Adowa for some time, fearing to go further; and I regret to say that the messengers just arrived report them in Tigre still. Other dollars were despatched by M. Munzinger in August by trusty people, which I hope may reach. Another 1,000 will be sent by these returning messengers.

3. Mr. Rassam says further: "We are afraid the Magdala will be besieged by the Wallo Gallas in a day or two, as a party from this garrison made a night attack on a village about 20 miles distance hence, killed its chief with a great number of followers, and carried away the rest of the inhabitants captives, with all their cattle and horses. The reason this attack was made was because one of the officers in charge of the Royal Treasury, and the Afa Begoos (mouth of the King, through whom he speaks when deciding any case), decamped the day before yesterday, and went and took refuge in the village above alluded to; the Magdala party suffered very severely on their return, because they were foolish enough to burn three houses of the village, which roused the neighbourhood around. Hundreds of horsemen hurried to the rescue of their countrymen, but they could render very little assistance, though they killed and wounded a great number of the enemy."

4. Dr. Blanc, after mentioning the above, writes: "We expect that this aggression will rouse the Queen of the Gallas to action. I hope so, as, though we may suffer from it, if it keeps off the King, we don't mind a little roughing. We hear Gobaze is marching; should he come near here or go to Begumeder, we are safe, and as you must come soon, it will be a case of coming out soon with flying colours."

5. Mr. Flad writes, "We are almost going on here in the same manner as before, except that we have much sickness, and every day from 40 to 50 cases of deaths, the most owing to poverty, starvation, and dysentery. H. M. enjoys good health now, and is in excellent spirits; he is progressing in subduing his rebellious peasants and deserted soldiers by the sword and by the fire. There is no doubt if he will go on in this manner scarcely a man or female will be left alive. A beautiful island in the Isama Lake Mahuska was lately burnt with its inhabitants, the peasants of both sexes, aged grey-bearded people and little children, were in vast numbers burnt. All the villages about are heaps of ashes, and the churches broken down. Inside the hedge, which surrounds the camp here, H. M. reigns; outside his name is not known. Peasants hiding themselves in caverns, and deserted soldiers, come near to the fence every night, crying out the hardest truths, which are called insults. Here, at present, great preparations are being made for a battle with one of his chief rebels, most likely with that of Sartus, then he says it shall be decided whether he shall reign again, or whether God will give it to another one. The Europeans here believe that after a month and a half H. M. will march towards Magdala. Messrs. Schiller, Essler, and Makerer he released of their hand chains; on their legs they are still chained together. In their prison they have to make stone bullets for his mortars and cannons. Messrs. Haiger and Branders are still chained hand and foot. For the bullets the first three had made he gave them some measures of grain. Towards me, for the most part he leaves me alone. I was told that some days ago, on one occasion, when he saw Mr. Rassam's sword, he said to the keeper of his treasury, 'Keep it well, and take care of everything that belongs to Mr. Rassam. I have no thing, no quarrel with him. I imprisoned only because I had listened to instigators. I shall bring him together with them, and set him at liberty.' It can't go on in this way much longer; some change must come, that is what every one says, even H. M. The opinion of the European workmen here is, that as soon as H. M. will, after the rainy season, meet with Mr. Rassam, he will send an answer to H.M.'s letters. Mr. Bardel thinks he will be the bearer of it. I hope before this will happen something will be decided, either here or down at the coast: he has plenty of men to go on still for a long time in these his devastations as long as he has only to do with the helpless peasants; but if once will meet on a battle-field one of his great rebel chiefs it will be decided; but it seems none of them wishes to attack him at first. What his intentions are towards the English prisoners no one can say, as he has never said a word about it to any one. If he gets time to send an answer, he will only try to prolong the affair, and to make new conditions, and perhaps hold out some promises which he will never fulfil. Your telescope is still with me. H.M. had asked Mr. Waldmeier again whether it was a good one, but when Mr. Waldmeier praised it highly, he did not make any reply."

6. Mrs. Flad, Mrs. Rosenthal, and their children had suffered from sickness, but were well at the time of writing.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding R.F.F.

No. 873.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to Vice Consul WALKER.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 26th, 1867.

With reference to your letter of the instant, I am directed by Lord Stanley to state to you that, having communicated to the Secretary of State for India the offer made in your letter of the 17th inst., to give information respecting the approaches to Abyssinia, his Lordship has been requested by Sir Stafford Northcote to ask you to call at the India Office.

You will do so, therefore, at your early convenience.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 874.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 26th, 1867.

No. 871.
No. 53.

I have received your Despatch of the 28th ultimo, reporting that you had forwarded to Prince Menelek the letter which I addressed to him on the 19th of August, together with certain presents selected from those intended for King Theodore; and I have to state to you that I approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 875.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 26th October 1867.

Nos. 734
and 664.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acknowledge the receipt of Major-General Pears's letter of the 14th instant, enclosing the copy of a letter from Staff Assistant Surgeon A. Neill, containing suggestions for preserving the health of the troops proceeding with the expedition to Abyssinia.

In reply, I am to acquaint you, for the information of Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, that the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, to whom the letter was referred as requested, has reported that most of the suggestions made by Dr. Neill have been embodied in the memorandum of instructions for the Sanitary Officers of the expedition, but the Director-General has, at the same time, expressed his opinion that it might be well to furnish the Commanding Officers, and each medical officer of the force, with a printed copy of Dr. Neill's report.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 876.

The Deputy Director of Transports to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, Somerset House, 26th October 1867.

No. 868.

No. 821.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and in reply to request that you will be pleased to furnish me as early as practicable with the information referred to in my letter of the 21st instant, in order that I may be provided with the data for the formation of any estimate which may be required of the probable expenses of the Abyssinian expedition, should it be intended that the cost of conveyance of the telegraphic apparatus, &c. to Suez shall *eventually* be claimed of naval funds.

I have, &c.,
C. CRUTTENDEN,
Deputy Director of Transports.

No. 877.

The Assistant Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 26th October 1867.

No. 827.

In reference to the India Office letter of 22d instant and previous correspondence, I have it in command to request that no passage may be provided in the "Mendoza" for a servant to accompany Surgeon Madden to Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,
H. H. CLIFFORD, Colonel,
Assistant Quartermaster-General.

No. 878.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 26th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 12th instant, relative to "Austin's close-
 " packing, portable military huts, hospitals, &c.," I am directed by the Secretary of No. 716.
 State for War to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in
 Council, the accompanying extract from a communication received from the Quarter-
 master-General, stating that the invention is unsuited for field service, &c.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 878.

Extract from Minute of Quartermaster-General, dated Horse Guards, 23d October 1867.

"The Quartermaster-General is directed to state that Mr. Austin called at the Horse Guards with
 " models of his portable hut, &c., &c., and was informed that the invention was unsuited for field
 " service, and that it was not apparent that it could be adopted even in standing camps with any
 " advantage over ordinary huts."

"The models were allowed to remain at the Horse Guards to suit Mr. Austin's convenience."

No. 879.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 26th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the
 receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, that, according No. 845.
 to the present requisitions of the Government of Bombay, no mules are required beyond
 those for which arrangements have been already made, and which are required to be at
 Suez by the 20th of November.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 880.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 26th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the
 receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, that a copy of the No. 870.
 correspondence respecting the organization of the detachments of Royal Engineers
 proceeding to Abyssinia will be transmitted to the Government of Bombay and Sir
 Robert Napier, and also to Lieutenants St. John and Le Messurier for their information.

I am desired to add that a passage will be provided for Major Pritchard on board the
 "Mendoza," on which vessel he should embark before 12 o'clock on the 4th of November.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 881.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 26th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the
 receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, and to acquaint you in reply, that he approves No. 837.
 of the suggestion that an extra Staff Assistant Surgeon be sent for each of the hospital

ships connected with the Abyssinian expedition; and I am to request that the names on the officers selected for this duty may be communicated to me as soon as possible, and that they may be directed to proceed to Suez on board the "Mendoza," which sails on the 4th of November, and, on their arrival at that place, to await instructions from the Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary force.

It will be necessary that all the officers should embark on the "Mendoza" before 12 o'clock on the 4th proximo.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 882.

The Military Secretary. India Office, to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

Sir,

India Office, 26th October 1867:

No. 831.

With reference to my letter of the 22d instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that, in addition to the officers therein mentioned, it will be necessary for you to provide for the conveyance of a Brevet Major of Engineers and three more Assistant Surgeons from Alexandria to Suez.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 883.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 26th October 1867.

Enclosure in
No. 812.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the information of Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote, the accompanying extract of a letter addressed to Mr. Scarlett by Count von Cuelebroeck, late Belgian Minister in Mexico, and formerly Secretary of Legation in Egypt, containing information respecting Abyssinia.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

No. 884.

Captain BEAUMONT, R.E., to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Dear General Pears,

71, Champ Elysées, 27th October 1867.

No. 856.

In reply to your letter of the 25th, I beg to submit the following remarks for the information of Sir Stafford Northcote.

First, as to the apparatus; the balloon would be of silk, and inflated with hot air, requiring nothing more than a few shavings or some straw, which would be burnt in a simple stove; to inflate the balloon no apparatus is necessary beyond a couple of poles, which would be cut on the spot. Free ascents can (if need be) be made, but the ordinary service is by captive ascents when the balloon is tied to the ground.

The following is the weight of such an apparatus as I would propose to take:—

Balloon, including net	-	-	200 lbs.
Car	-	-	225 "
Hoop	-	-	56 "
Rope	-	-	225 "

Total - - - 706 lbs. for a single balloon.

The larger weights of 225 lbs. can be subdivided as required; the balloon, weighing 200 lbs., must be carried in one piece; you will notice, however, that it is within the power of a mule, and that four mules will take the whole apparatus. The ascensional power of the apparatus, with air of a practicable heat, is 1,530 lbs.; the apparatus will therefore serve comfortably for two persons with accessory instruments, and I should like to take three balloons in case of accident, and the cost of the whole three, including all necessary ropes, &c., will be within 2,000*l*. I have here a responsible person who will

undertake the work at less than that price; he is Mons. Gabriel Yon, who has constructed the "Géant," as well as the balloon now going up daily from the Champ de Mars. The whole could be ready in one month from the date of my receiving orders to go on.

Mons. Yon has placed at my service a balloon (Montgolfier) which he has, with which to make a trial ascent, to demonstrate the practicability of the affair, though it is too big, and being made of cotton is unsuited altogether for our purposes. The cost of the experiment will only be the transport of the balloon; it will not show anything that is not known now, still it will be an experiment before one's eyes.

You ask whether I have, in making the proposition, fully considered the difficulty of the present expedition, and I can assure you I have fully done so, and believe (since I went up in the balloons McClellan had before Richmond, I also made the experiments for the English Government from Aldershot and Woolwich,) that I am in a position to appreciate the obstacles that are likely to be met with now, and which, so far as the use of balloons is concerned, must not be looked upon as very serious.

No doubt the balloons could not always be used on account of the wind, nor would they always be required. Here at Paris the last five days have all been favourable to-day is the reverse; but I should anticipate in Abyssinia, it being hotter, that the winds would be less strong than here. I have confined my remarks to the practical part of the question, since you have General Lefroy's view of the use that can be made of a balloon when the ascent is once made, and, of course, my opinion is as nothing to his, but I may say that I fully concur in his views. Enclosure in
No. 710.

Ascents could not always, they could only very frequently, be made, and they might serve for nothing; but, on the other hand, they might well be invaluable, and it is very unlikely that they would serve for literally no good at all. With all respect I would suggest that the question is whether the probable advantages are not well worth an expenditure of 2,000*l.*, and 12 mules. I forgot to mention the staff, which would be next to nil; I should want no more than one Sapper who would understand the manipulation of the apparatus. The actual labour might be derived from any source available.

I should be glad to know as soon as convenient whether you think it at all probable the proposition will be entertained, and should Sir Stafford Northcote or yourself wish to see me I could run over to London for a day.

Believe me, &c.,

FRED. BEAUMONT.

P.S.—The balloons that went with the French army in Italy were hot air, or Montgolfier.

No. 885.

Sir SAMUEL BAKER to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Hedenham Hall, Bungay, October 27, 1867.

As military operations against Abyssinia have commenced, I venture to suggest a supplementary expedition upon a small scale that would most probably effect the immediate release of the European captives, whose lives may otherwise be imperilled by the sudden rage of Theodore upon hearing of the advance of a hostile force from the Red Sea.

There is a great chief whom I know well in a portion of Abyssinia at the western base of the mountain chain; he is named Mek Nimmur, and he rules as King over a small territory. This man is a great personal friend of Theodore, with whom he has much influence.

I received much attention from Mek Nimmur, and I propose that he should be the medium of communication with the King of Abyssinia according to the following programme.

A British envoy, bearing an ultimatum from the Queen, should leave England accompanied by a force of 1,000 men, direct to Alexandria, to embark at Suez for Souakin.

The Egyptian Government should be requested to have a steamer with a supply of Nile water, &c. awaiting the force at Suez. Also they should send immediate orders to the Government of Souakin to hold 3,000 camels with fodder, &c. in readiness, so that the force could start the day after disembarkation.

The Government of Souakin should be instructed to despatch a messenger to Cassala, with orders to the Governor of that province to collect an equal number of camels, with supplies, that the force might proceed without delay.

In December until May (when the rivers are fordable) a march of five days in a direct route from Cassala will reach Mek Nimmur's headquarters, Mai Gubba, in Abyssinia. Thus in 20 days' march through a friendly country the envoy and escort would reach Mek Nimmur from Souakin.

A present of 200 old Tower muskets would secure Mek Nimmur's co-operation. I feel convinced that his influence well directed would quickly succeed in procuring the release of the captives, as he could explain the critical position of affairs in a manner that has hitherto been misunderstood.

A British envoy, thus powerfully supported, would carry immense weight with the people of the country, and the King and his advisers would believe in his reality as a messenger from the Queen of England.

Introduced by Mek Nimmur, I believe that Theodore would receive the British Envoy and his military escort, especially if he is hard pressed by the rebels.

On the other hand, should he refuse to liberate the captives, the force of 1,000 men would form an imposing centre, around which the rebels would gather. Some 3,000 or 4,000 Tower muskets and ammunition should be taken by the British Envoy, either to be used in organizing a rebel force, or otherwise, as circumstances might render necessary; and a few well-selected officers might accompany the expedition to take the command of any rebel forces that might be raised.

I thoroughly believe that an expedition on this small scale, well conducted, would be perfectly successful within a few weeks from the arrival at Souakin. It would be perfectly independent of the military operations conducted from Massowah, and would have the advantage of small numbers with unlimited means of transport, the want of which, together with the failure of supplies in a country devastated by civil wars, will be severely felt by the large force that will act from the coast of the Red Sea.

I am, &c.,

SAML. W. BAKER.

No. 886.

Mr. J. DUPUIS to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

1, Alma Terrace, Clapham Road, October 28th, 1867.

With reference to military requirements for the expedition to Abyssinia, I beg to offer an opinion to your Lordship that by far the best market for mules would be found in Morocco in preference to Spain. Not only do I believe that in the former country they may be obtained at a rate considerably lower, but, from *experience of both*, I claim to know that through better training the mule of Morocco is the *more tractable and more enduring* of the two; besides that, with his burden of two cantars Barbary weight, about 2½ cwts., he is capable of tiring out horses on a long journey. These qualities and the happier disposition of the animal would be appreciated by our army, and tend to relieve or preserve from accidents men unaccustomed to the propensities of the mule, especially such as are commonly vicious from bad training or ill treatment.

The best places to purchase these animals are at the towns south of Rabat. If time were allowed they could be obtained from the cities of Morocco and Zamdant at a much cheaper rate, perhaps not exceeding 15 dollars average for a serviceable cargo.

I purchased and shipped such a cargo at Magadore in former times for American Government account. By favour of the Emperor, through personal solicitation, they were exempt from export duty, and the same advantage under existing circumstances it is probable would follow a proper application on behalf of our Government. I venture in conclusion to say that I believe the requirements of mules for this expedition *cannot be met from Spain*, except at an enormous cost, if at all; and for barley and wheat (which in the war I shipped to the Peninsula for the British Government) I believe also that Morocco offers the cheapest market.

As a further hint I mention that an army in these climates has been supported for months upon dates. They are packed in goat skins.

I have, &c.,

J. DUPUIS.

No. 887.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Admiralty, 28th October 1867.

It being necessary that a separate account should be kept of all expenses chargeable to naval votes, incurred in connexion with the sea transport of troops and

stores for the Abyssinian expedition, in order that any claims for repayment may be brought under examination as promptly as possible, and that their investigation may not be impeded by the mingling therewith of expenses chargeable to other departments of the Imperial Government, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will lay before Secretary Sir Stafford Northcote the accompanying memorandum, showing the requirements of the Naval Department in order to facilitate this object. And my Lords will be glad for instructions to be issued to the authorities in India, to cause the points adverted to in the memorandum to be duly attended to.

I am, &c.,
HENRY G. LENNOX.

Enclosure in No. 887.

Memorandum.

It is desirable that the claims of the Indian Government for the repayment of their expenditure for the transport service of the expedition should be made periodically.

The expenditure for transport service is classified in the Admiralty accounts under the following heads, and it will be convenient that, as far as practicable, a similar classification should be observed in the claims to be preferred, viz. :—

Hire of Transports.—Payments for the hire of ships on monthly pay, for the *purchase* of vessels, and for pilotage and dues when payable by the Government under the charters.

Coals for Steamers.—Payments for coal *purchased* for hired vessels or the value of *supplies* out of store to such vessels, and the value of coals *consumed* by steamers belonging to the Indian Marine.

Freight of Troops.—Payments of freight of troops, horses, or draught animals, at rates per head, or for the voyage, as well as any expenses for boat hire, &c., for landing and embarking them.

Freight of Stores.—Payments for freight of army provisions or stores, and of provisions and other stores for sea transport service.

Mess of Army Officers.—Payments for messing Army Officers, civilians of the Army Department, and of Transport Officers whilst on board ship.

Passage Money.—Payments for the passage of Officers and their servants (including freight of their baggage) *to and from England*.

The passage of officers between India and the seat of operations will be chargeable to the head of *Freight of Troops*.

Fittings.—The cost of fitting ships for the conveyance of troops, horses, or draught animals.

Bedding and Stores for Troops.—Purchases and supplies of articles of bedding, and mess utensils, and other miscellaneous stores for the use of troops on board ship, and cost of washing.

Forage and Stores for Horses.—Purchases and supplies of forage and miscellaneous stores for horses and draught animals on board ship.

Pay of Transport Officers.—The pay and contingent expenses of Naval Officers and civilians employed specially on duties connected with transport service.

Provisions.—Purchases and supplies of provisions and “medical comforts” for troops on board H.M. troop ships or hired vessels, to be consumed on board ship, and the cost of provisions consumed by troops embarked in vessels of the Indian Marine.

Provisions for land service, medicines, clothing (whether on board ship, or for shore service), and arms and ammunition for land or sea service, are army charges in the Imperial accounts. The cost of such supplies should not, therefore, be included in the claims on the Admiralty, and, as far as may be practicable, they should form the subject of distinct vouchers.

The same observation applies to expenses of shipping and landing stores for land service.

It is desirable that the claims be preferred monthly, as the expenses are brought to account, and it is especially necessary that they should be supported by the cash vouchers for payments claimed, and, in the case of supplies out of the Indian Government stores, by statements showing in detail the rate and value of the several articles. The claims for stores purchased or supplied should be accompanied by evidence of the supply to each particular ship, which should be the master's receipt if the vessel pass her accounts in England.

Copies of the charter-parties of ships engaged in India should be furnished as early as practicable, and it will be especially necessary that they be produced before the claims for the balance of hire can be admitted.

Vouchers for messing should show the names, rank, and regiments of the officers and specify the dates and places between which each officer is messes.

In regard to transports engaged by the Bombay Government, and therefore passing their victualling and store accounts in India, the accounts with vouchers so soon as passed should be forwarded to England in order that re-claims may be made for returns or supplies to other departments of the Imperial Government,—the examination of the expenditure on board resting entirely with the Indian authorities.

The Indian Government should credit the Admiralty with the value of serviceable stores returned from the transports and with the proceeds of sale of unserviceable stores.

In order that the audit of the ships' accounts may be complete, it is requested that steps may be taken to inform the Admiralty as early as possible of all supplies made from Indian ships and transports to vessels passing accounts in England, and directions will be given for communicating to the Government at Bombay the details of all supplies made by British transports to the Indian ships.

It is especially requisite that the receipt and issue of stores and provisions for land service should be kept distinct from the transactions for sea service, otherwise there must inevitably be delay in the final settlement of the claims between the two Governments.

No. 888.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir,

India Office, October 28, 1867.

No. 859.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, respecting the inspection of the "Mendoza," previous to the embarkation of the detachments of Royal Engineers proceeding to take part in the Abyssinian expedition.

2. With regard to the question contained in the first paragraph of your letter, whether the vessel will be ready for inspection at Woolwich on the 2d of November, I am desired to state that, if required, she will be there by that date; but, as she is loading at the London Docks, and it would be necessary, in order that she may be ready by the 2d of the month, for her to leave the docks on the preceding day, it will be more convenient if the time of inspection can be fixed for the morning of the 4th, before the hour of sailing, which will not be till the afternoon.

3. I am, however, directed to add that, the ship having been engaged primarily for the conveyance of stores, it has not been thought necessary or indeed practicable to fit her up in all respects according to the regulations for troop ships; and, while care has been taken that the men should be accommodated more comfortably than they would have been on board the Peninsular and Oriental Company's vessels, had passages thereon been engaged for them, some of the details (such as the provision of prisons, &c.) required by the regulations for troop ships have been omitted. The great advantage is, however, gained of sending the men with their Officers in one party instead of in detachments by the weekly mail ships, in which case they could not all have arrived at the scene of operations at an earlier date than if they had gone by the troop ship of the 21st of November, as originally intended.

4. In reference to the 2d paragraph of your letter I have to acquaint you, that Lieutenants St. John and Le Messurier will be embarked on the "Mendoza," under orders from this Office.

5. In the 3d paragraph of your letter it is stated that the numbers of the detachment of Royal Engineers have been fixed at one Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 6 sergeants, 2 buglers, and 75 men.

6. On this point I am directed to observe, that passages have been provided for the three Officers.

Enclosure in
No. 685.

7. With regard to the non-commissioned officers and men, however, the strength sanctioned, as enumerated in the letter of the 10th instant, from the Military Secretary to the Under Secretary of State for War, is 65, for which number passage was ordered on board the "Mendoza;" and it is now impossible to provide accommodation for more, without actually unloading stores which have been already shipped, and the greater part of which, such as the telegraph equipment, packsaddles, &c. are urgently required at an early date for the use of the force.

No. 771.

8. In acceding to the arrangement proposed by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief respecting the organization of the detachment, Sir Stafford Northcote referred to the question of placing it under the command of a Captain, and did not intend to acquiesce in any increase of the numbers. On the contrary, in my letter to the War Office, dated the 16th instant, it was stated that, if His Royal Highness objected to so large a party being placed regimentally under a subaltern, he would withdraw the demand for men to work the tube wells, as no difficulty would be found by Sir Robert Napier in instructing some of the sappers, pioneers, or coolies under his command in that duty.

9. In the concluding paragraph of your letter you state, that the medical Officers and the Officer commanding the Royal Engineers will be instructed to report themselves, on arrival at Alexandria, to the Deputy Quartermaster-General at that place.

10. On this point I am desired to inform you, that instructions have been given to the principal transport officer in Egypt to provide conveyance for the whole party from Alexandria to Suez, at which place it will be necessary for them to await the commands of Sir Robert Napier.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEABS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 889.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards,

Sir, India Office, October 28, 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acquaint you that applications have been made by Surgeon-Major Guy and Lieutenant Le Messurier, two of the Officers about to proceed to Egypt on board the "Mendoza," for permission to take a horse with them, and it has been ascertained that 2 or 3 horses could be accommodated without interfering with the quantity of stores on board.

2. Sir Stafford Northcote is therefore desirous of complying with these requests; but he is of opinion that the option of taking a horse should be offered to the Officers in seniority, and I am therefore instructed to request that measures may be taken, with as little delay as possible, to ascertain the wishes of the Officers on the subject.

3. It will be requisite that all expenses of fitting, &c. shall be borne by the individual Officers concerned.

I have, &c.

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 890.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir, India Office, 28th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that, as the "Mendoza" has been taken up to proceed to Alexandria direct, she will not be able to call at Gibraltar and Malta on her voyage thither. No. 847.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 891.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir, India Office, 28th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he approves of the proposition to construct five pack-saddles at the Government expense, on the plan proposed by Lieutenant D. McMahon, of the Military Train, in order that his system may be tested in the Abyssinian expedition. No. 860.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 892.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to Mr. PLOWDEN.

Sir, India Office, 28th October 1867.

I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to acknowledge your letter of the 24th instant, with enclosed letter from yourself to King Theodore of Abyssinia, and I am to inform you in reply that the same has been forwarded to Colonel Merewether for delivery, with discretion to withhold it should he be of opinion that any public inconvenience will arise from its delivery. No. 855.

I am, &c.,

J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 893.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 28th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed copy of instructions for the

Sanitary Officer attached to the Medical Staff of the Abyssinian expeditionary force, which have been prepared by the Army Medical Department, with a view to its being forwarded, should Sir Stafford Northcote approve, to the Government of Bombay.

A copy of the memorandum will be forwarded by the Director-General of the Army Medical Department to the Principal Medical Officer at Bombay, with instructions to send it to the Sanitary Officer proceeding with the expedition.

Sir John Pakington has caused to be prepared six portable cases containing materials for testing the purity of drinking water, which he considers would be very useful for this expedition, as enabling the medical officers to detect bad water, which might thereby often be avoided.

When the cases are completed, they will be forwarded to Aden, addressed to the Principal Medical Officer of the expedition.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 893.

Memoranda of Instructions, &c.

Army Medical Department,
October 18th, 1867.

As the Medical Officer charged with the sanitary arrangements of the British force to be employed in Abyssinia, duties of an important and responsible nature will devolve upon you.

Your attention is directed to the "Sanitary Regulations for Field Service," Section XXI., p. 82, of the Army Medical Regulations. By familiarizing yourself with these, you will become acquainted with the spirit and general nature of your duties.

It has, however, been deemed desirable to supplement these regulations by special instructions, with the view, as far as practicable, of affording such information as may facilitate the discharge of your functions as the Sanitary Officer attached to Her Majesty's British Army in Abyssinia.

The copies of two pamphlets prepared by the Topographical Department of the War Office, appended hereto, will afford you a considerable amount of useful information bearing on the topography of the country and its climate.

As this is the first occasion on which British troops will have penetrated into Abyssinia, a country about which so little is known, it is highly desirable that you should neglect no opportunity of making yourself acquainted with its aspects. You will be provided with a small supply of meteorological instruments for the purpose of making observations on the climate, and the altitude of any mountain land you may have to cross.

You will, moreover, keep an accurate diary of all the circumstances of an interesting or useful character, more particularly of those bearing upon the health and efficiency of the troops.

By a reference to the maps of Abyssinia, its main features and general configuration will be perceived.

It consists of two parts, which are no less distinguished from one another in appearance than in their soil, climate, and water supply.

The mountain land of Abyssinia proper lies internal to a flat coast land, which is described as an arid, waterless, uncultivated, trackless desert, very hot and unhealthy.

On the other hand, the highlands are described as generally salubrious, temperate, and even very cold at night, well watered and fertile in places.

These two parts, then, appear to be the opposite of one another in every respect. The rainy season of the one is the dry season of the other, and the meteorological phenomena are also contrasted; for, while, on the one hand, the temperature of the highlands is such that snow exists on the tops of some of the mountains, and on the table land the nights are said to be cold, accompanied by the fall of dew, necessitating blankets and warm clothing, on the other the temperature of the lowlands, as recorded by different travellers, is always high, the degree, however, depending in a great measure upon the season of the year.

It will be seen that the line of the highlands does not run parallel with the sea-board, but their proximity to the sea is much greater at some places than at others. As far as practicable, no doubt, advantage will be taken of the fact.

Military exigencies must of course override sanitary considerations; still you will bear in mind that with the arrival at the highlands will the main obstacles to sanitation be overcome, and those of another and military nature commence.

You will have to consider, moreover, the importance of the seasons in these climates, so that, if consulted, you will be enabled to advise as to the best time for a seasonable warfare.

As regards the peculiarities and diseases incident to the climate, we are indebted to private travellers for almost all we know; and, valuable as these observations are, they were commonly made by persons but little skilled in medical knowledge, and unaccustomed to tracing the connexion of disease with climatic or insanitary causes.

After collating information from all the available sources, it would appear that the main factors of disease may be considered in reference to the three following heads, viz.,—

Conditions of climate ;

Conditions connected with the habits and diseases of the people ; and, lastly, those

Conditions incident more or less to all armies on active service.

Conditions of Climate.

The heat and humidity of the atmosphere, the uncertain character and possible insufficiency of the water supply, the character of the soil in engendering malarious emanations, and the presence of considerable quantities of very fine sand in the hot humid atmosphere of the sandy frontiers, are conditions of which we may, to a certain extent, predicate the probable results. Malarial fever of variable types and severity, with its congener, dysentery ; hepatic and splenic affections ; deteriorations of health, arising from prolonged exposure to climatic or paludal causes ; ophthalmias, and possibly heat apoplexy,—such are the diseases also enumerated by different writers ; but it must be remarked that it is in the lowlands in particular that we may anticipate the presence of these causes of disease ; it is apparently only at certain seasons, and in certain localities, that the highlands are dangerous from such causes. The dried beds of mountain torrents, the gullies and valleys between very high hills, are said to be obnoxious, from the malarial character of their confined air ; and the banks of the larger streams, as, for example, those of the Taccazy, are also stated by travellers, including Bruce, as peculiarly dangerous during the dry season, or that of the commencing rains from March to November.

Ophthalmias appear to be very prevalent among the Abyssinian villages. The susceptibility to these affections is probably due to the peculiar conditions of such a climate as that of Egypt and Abyssinia ; congestion and lachrymation of the eyes are liable to be excited by the action of the fine sand borne along the atmospheric currents of the desert plains ; and the disease, once excited, is, no doubt, both aggravated and maintained by the dirty habits and unwholesome dwellings of the occupants of native villages.

Your attention is particularly directed to the causes of disease just enumerated, in consequence of their importance in rendering the troops ineffective.

Although no amount of vigour of constitution will confer absolute immunity from these diseases, still it is quite certain that very much may be accomplished by sanitary precautions.

It will only be requisite to indicate the measures on which most reliance can be placed.

The standard of health of the soldier is in itself a point wherein a discretionary power may be exercised with advantage. The more feeble and depressed the physical vigour, the greater the susceptibility to the action of malarial poison. For forced marches, or tentative expeditions into unknown or doubtful localities, the strongest men should be preferred and selected.

And in all cases it is most important that depressing causes of a temporary kind, such as fasting, exposure to cold, insufficiency of clothing, or want of sleep, should be avoided or overcome before any such marches.

A good night's rest,—good diet,—the issue of some hot beverage, such as coffee,—the use of flannel clothing and cholera belts,—the avoidance, in general, of marching after sunset,—the invariable avoidance of lying upon the bare ground, without some waterproof material being used, and, if possible, some dry vegetable product, such as grass or fern, or unprotected from the dews by a covering or some form of tent extemporized out of any materials at hand, as the blanket issued to the soldier during the New Zealand war, which was found very serviceable in the way of temporary *tentes d'abri*,—and the issue of some one or more of the concentrated preparations or substitutes for meat, with biscuit, &c., in order to anticipate and provide against any temporary delay or arrest in the commissariat supplies, when a detachment is to make any forced or exploratory marches,—these are all matters affecting the personal conditions of the individual soldier.

There are others not less important in connexion with the special local features and circumstances of the soil. The selection of sites for camps in reference to these,—their position to windward of any places where the presence of malaria is known or may be suspected to exist,—the proximity of good water,—the avoidance of deep valleys, ravines, and insalubrious localities, as far as possible, both for encamping and during marching,—the character of the vegetation, soil, and the protective influence of a belt of trees, are all matters which will engage your anxious attention.

Nor will you fail to have recourse to quinine, mixed with wine or spirit, as a prophylactic against the effects of malarial poison, where its action has been already detected in any soldiers composing the force, or where you have reason to fear the presence of malaria from the character of the soil.

The character of the water used for drinking purposes will require your vigilant attention and inquiry.

There is much reason for believing that water obtained from low-lying sandy districts, and that procured by digging into a soil containing vegetable mucor or *débris*, may be the vehicle of a malarial poison, and the cause of intermittent and dysenteric disease.

The entire avoidance of drinking the water obtained by digging in the sandy districts bordering on the sea may probably be necessary ; if so, the troops will have to depend upon artificial sources of supply during their transit over these parts.

It may be useful here to remark, that it has been stated by an African traveller, who made the desert journey from Bhedan, and whose assistants suffered in health apparently from impure or tainted water, that all fresh and new skins for its transport on camels ought to be strictly avoided, a preference being given to old and well-worn, but still serviceable skins.

You should be supplied with some chemical appliances and tests in a very portable form, for the purpose of roughly determining the purity, or otherwise, of the water used for drinking purposes.

It is almost impossible to remark upon the exact nature of the measures to be adopted, so much will depend upon the actual circumstances by which you are surrounded, and the necessary sanitary details must be left to the exercise of a discretionary power and judgment; but the utility of filters, the boiling of drinking water of a doubtful character, and the employment of any other means of purification will claim your attention. Their application, however, will have to depend upon the means available at the time.

The temperature of the highlands being liable to considerable variation in the 24 hours, and during certain seasons of the year, your attention will be directed to the clothing of the troops, which will require to be ample, particularly at night, when the dews are heavy, and you may see the necessity of recommending certain changes in the diet of the troops, according to the different positions which they will occupy and the vicissitudes of climate to which they may be exposed. It is, however, to be remarked that all Abyssinian travellers, who have referred to the subject of regimen at all, have dwelt upon the injurious effects of any excess in spirituous liquors, and the importance of temperance, cleanliness, bathing, and the frequent use of cold water to the skin to preserve its functions in activity, and a light supper meal of meat before going to rest, particularly in cases where the troops are exposed to bivouacking.

Probably one of the most important considerations of all will be the food of the soldier. According to the statements of travellers, animals capable of serving for food abound in Abyssinia, and the herds of cattle belonging to the natives exist in the pastures bordering on villages.

You will endeavour to obtain any information you can as to the animal and vegetable products of the country, with the view of being prepared to supplement or replace the soldiers' ration by these means, in case of need. You will see that the rations supplied to the troops are sufficient in quantity and wholesome in quality.

You will bear in mind the importance of fresh meat and good vegetables as articles of diet, and you will be alive to the necessity of guarding against scorbutic disease by the issue of these whenever procurable; when they cannot be obtained, lime juice and other substitutes, such as the ripe and wholesome fruits of the country, should be allowed.

Conditions arising from the Habits and Diseases of the Native Population.

Abyssinia being a pastoral country, the people inhabiting the villages said to be very dirty in their habits, and the dogs and other animals very numerous, the streams are apt to become infected with the ova of worms and parasites, which, after their introduction within the human body, speedily develop into other and higher forms.

Several species of parasites, including varieties of tape worm, Guinea worm, and others, are alluded to by travellers as of common occurrence, or indigenous to the country.

There are many points connected with the genetic history of these creatures, and the method of the introduction of their larval forms, not yet fully elucidated, but it is highly probable that water, meat, and edible vegetables are the ordinary vehicles of such introduction.

The tape worm most commonly, if not exclusively, met with in Abyssinia, Caffreland, and the west coast of Africa, is not the common species, but the *tania mediocanellata*; and helminthologists are of opinion that this worm, existing in a lower and cystic grade in beef, veal, and possibly mutton, gets introduced into the human subject with the flesh of these animals. The *tania nana*, or *tania Egyptiaca*, otherwise called the dwarf or Egyptian tapeworm, may possibly also be found.

The kidney parasite (*strongylas gigas*) appears to be confined to Egypt and to Cape Colony, for it is not referred to by Abyssinian travellers. It is important to destroy or render innocuous the larval forms of these parasites, and this may best be accomplished by a great or prolonged exposure to heat. All animal food should be thoroughly well cooked.

The Guinea worm is generally believed to be introduced through some exposed part of the integument, and this obviously points to the protection of these parts with good clothing, particularly the lower limbs and feet.

We are ignorant of the extent to which these causes may prevail in the tract of country likely to be traversed by our troops, but it seems scarcely probable that the conditions favourable to their generation and development can be very great amid the sparsely divided inhabitants of mountain villages.

Be this as it may, however, the diseases due to the presence of parasites are slow in progress, relatively slight in character, and not likely to prove very material causes of disability on field service.

Skin diseases, particularly scabies, appear to be common among the native population.

The danger is quite otherwise with complaints of an epidemic or contagious character, such as small-pox, the contagious exanthemata, and syphilis, which are described as occasionally prevailing among the natives.

As to the occurrence of cholera, there would appear to be some degree of doubt entertained, but it is unquestionably mentioned as having prevailed in an epidemic form by some writers, although it is unknown at the Cape of Good Hope.

These diseases will be mainly avoided by exercising caution in allowing the troops to enter villages, before the healthiness or otherwise of the inhabitants has been ascertained; by encamping,

when necessary, to windward, and at a distance from such villages, and by prohibiting or restricting all intercourse between the troops and the natives of an infected locality.

The possibility of ophthalmia, also, when once contracted, exhibiting contagious properties, must likewise be borne in mind, and guarded against.

Conditions incidental in a greater or less degree to all Armies during active Service.

When the line of operations has been more fully determined upon, the nature of the warfare, the base of operations, and the establishment of convoys and communication on the line of march will become known.

Your best attention will be given to the choice of salubrious localities for camps and field hospitals, and, when admissible, for works likely to be occupied by troops; to indicate and recommend the best admissible hygienic measures that can be effected during their necessary occupation; to avoid or diminish all over-crowding of tents; to select the best position, and to maintain the strictest practicable cleanliness of all latrines, camps, and hospitals.

When the healthiness of a site for a camp is doubtful, it may be advisable, as a precautionary measure, to light and keep up large fires, this having been found useful in malarious districts.

It is needless to add, that the longer the occupation of any camp, the greater necessity for good drainage, for frequently filling up latrines and making new ones, and for seeing that all slaughter-places are kept free of offal and decomposing organic matter, and placed at a distance from the camp.

You will best guard against the occurrence of zymotic diseases of all kinds, particularly typhoid fever, by the strictest attention to all sanitary matters, both within and around such camps.

Having gained some knowledge of the topography of the country in relation to the difficulties of transport, you may have to advise the best means for the transit of the sick and wounded.

As the nature of the country and the service will probably entail a great deal of marching and fatigue, you will have regard to the men's boots, in order to guard against foot-soreness and lameness, and to see that the nature of the soldier's dress is adapted to the climate, and of such a character as not to impair his efficiency in the discharge of active military duties.

It will be necessary for the troops to pay strict attention to personal cleanliness, and it may be advisable to allow men to bathe their feet before and after a march, or, possibly, during a halt when on the march.

The object of the foregoing instructions has been to afford you some information, gleaned from various sources, which it is hoped may hereafter prove accurate and useful; but many special and local circumstances will probably present themselves, such as cannot be met and included within the scope of any instructions. These have, therefore, been drawn up in such a way as to leave you great liberty of action, and an ample margin for the exercise of promptitude and judgment.

It is to be understood, moreover, that these instructions are not intended to confer any authority for special or distinct action apart from the main object of the expedition; on the contrary, everything is to be made subsidiary to that consideration. You will, therefore, be ready to afford any assistance in your power, by advice or otherwise, to all concerned in the expedition; and in the general discharge of your duties you will endeavour to enlist the cordial co-operation of the executive and medical branches of the service, in promoting the common purpose you have in view, viz., the health and efficiency of the soldiers, and the success of the undertaking.

T. G. LOGAN, Director-General.

No. 894.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 29th October 1867.

With reference to the request contained in the enclosure to your letter of the 14th instant, that a passage might be provided on board the "Mendoza," for Surgeon Madden "and one male servant," I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, to acquaint you that the question was referred to the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, whether, under the peculiar circumstances of the expedition, it was expedient in his opinion that any other than soldier-servants should be allowed to accompany the force, and that, in reply, His Royal Highness has stated that he considers it desirable that a passage should not be provided for a servant to accompany Surgeon Madden.

Enclosure 3
in No. 725.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major General,
Military Secretary.

No. 895.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, October 29th, 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that a copy of the letter from M. Baldini has been forwarded, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, in case of a further demand for pack-animals being received, but that at present measures have been taken to meet all the requisitions for mules which have been made by the Bombay Government on account of the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 858.
Enclosure in
No. 857.

No. 896.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir,

India Office, 29th October 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the co-operation of Commodore Heath in the preparations which are being made at Bombay for the Abyssinian expedition, and the appointment of Captain Tryon to superintend, under his orders, the arrangements connected with the transport service, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an extract of a letter which has been received from the Government of Bombay on the subject.

2. The correspondence with Commodore Heath is about to be printed, and will be hereafter forwarded for the information of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 823,
paragraphs
4 and 5.

No. 897.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Principal Transport Officer in Egypt.

Sir,

India Office, 29th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, forwarding your cash account for September in connexion with the Abyssinian expedition; and I am desired to acquaint you in reply that voucher No. 5, for "Loss on negotiating bill No. 1," 1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, has not been sent.

2. I have accordingly to request that the voucher may be sent, that you will certify that the charges Nos. 1 to 8 were incurred on account of the Abyssinian expedition, and that in future a certificate to that effect may be entered on each voucher.

I am, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 807.

No. 898.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 29th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 2d instant on the subject of the telegraphic, signalling, and photographic establishments for Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying copies of a letter from the Horse Guards and its enclosure relative to the signalling apparatus, and to request that you will inform me whether Sir Stafford Northcote concurs in the suggestions of Colonel Simmons, as contained in his letter of the 24th instant.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 554.

Enclosure 1 in No. 898.

The Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Engineers to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, Horse Guards, 25th October 1867.

I am directed by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to transmit the enclosed letter from the Director, Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham, dated 24th instant, reporting that the signalling apparatus proposed for service in Abyssinia will be ready for inspection and delivery on or after Monday next, the 28th instant, and I am to recommend for the consideration of the Secretary of State for War that the arrangements as to the inspection and packing of the articles at Mr. Nunn's, and the proposal to send the equipments at Chatham in the vessel with the men, may be carried into effect.

I have, &c.,

J. H. KEANE, Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers.

Enclosure 2 in No. 898.

The Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham to the Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Engineers.

Sir, Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham,
24th October 1867.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that the signalling apparatus prepared for service in Abyssinia will be ready for inspection and delivery on or after Monday next, the 28th instant.

The whole, with the exception of the equipment for two field signalling stations will be at the makers, Messrs. Nunn, 67, St. George Street, London Docks, ready for packing in cases, and I should recommend that, as there are a large number of small articles in the equipment for each station, they should be inspected at Mr. Nunn's, so that they may be packed there ready for shipment.

The equipments for the two stations above referred to have been delivered here, and, being employed for the purpose of exercising the men who have been selected for service in Abyssinia, I propose that they should be sent out with them. By this means their practice in signalling might be kept up during their voyage out.

I have, &c.,

J. L. A. SIMMONS, Colonel,
Director of Royal Engineers.

No. 899.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 29th October 1867.

With reference to previous correspondence relative to the supply of mules for the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, the enclosed copy of a telegram, dated Alexandria the 25th instant, which has been received from Colonel Kennedy on the subject.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD,

Enclosure in No. 899.

Telegram from Colonel CLARK KENNEDY.

2,085 mules assembled in Egypt, whereof 1,517 have been sent to Suez, whereof 580 have embarked for Massowah.

No. 900.

Telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay,
October 29, 1867.

Do you wish for more compressed vegetables than the 15,000 lbs. already sent? They can be obtained more cheaply now than two months later.

No. 901.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 29th October 1867.

No. 711.

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 11th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the enclosed report on the trial of Major Russell's hospital stretcher, which I am to request you will be good enough to return to this office as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 902.

The Military Secretary, Horse Guards, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Horse Guards, 29th October 1867.

No. 827.

With reference to your letter of the 22d instant, relative to Staff Surgeon C. D. Madden's request that a passage may be provided for "one male servant" to accompany that officer on service with the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Army Medical Department, stating that Dr. Madden has expressed a wish to withdraw the application in question.

I have to add that His Royal Highness does not consider it is desirable that any servants, other than soldier-servants, should be allowed to accompany the expedition from this country.

I have, &c.,
W. F. FORSTER.

Enclosure in No. 902.

The Director-General of the Army Medical Department to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

Sir, Army Medical Department, 28th October 1867.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, and in reply to state, for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, that Staff Surgeon C. D. Madden has expressed a wish to withdraw his application for a passage for a servant; consequently no further steps in this matter appear to be necessary.

I have, &c.,
T. G. LOGAN,
Director-General.

No. 903.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, 29th October 1867.

No. 813.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a memorandum which was left in his Lordship's hands by the Italian Minister at this Court, tendering the good offices of his Government with certain Italian missionaries, who appear to be in favour with King Theodore, for the purpose of obtaining through their influence the release of the Abyssinian captives.

I am to request that, in laying this letter before the Secretary of State for India, you will move him to favour Lord Stanley with his opinion as to what answer should be returned to the Italian Government.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 904.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Sir Samuel Baker.

Sir, Foreign Office, 29th October 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your No. 885. letter of the 27th instant, suggesting that a supplementary expedition should be despatched, *via* Souakin, to Abyssinia, with the view of obtaining the release of the British captives through the agency of an Abyssinian chief named Mek Nimmur, and I am to inform you in reply that, as the management of the proposed expedition rests entirely with the India Office, your letter has been referred to that Department for their consideration and decision.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 905.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Foreign Office, October 29, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a letter from Sir Samuel Baker, suggesting that a supplementary expedition should be despatched *via* Souakin to Abyssinia, with the view of obtaining the release of the British captives through the agency of a powerful Abyssinian Chief, named Mek Nimmur.

Sir Samuel Baker has been informed in reply that his letter has been referred to Sir Stafford Northcote for his consideration.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

No. 906.

The Deputy Director of Transport Services to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Admiralty; Somerset House, 29th October 1867.

With reference to your letter of the 25th instant, I beg to acquaint you that it No. 863. appears very desirable that ice-making machines should be supplied to the three hospital ships attached to the Abyssinian expedition; and I beg to transmit herewith Mr. Keith's circular, observing that the prices of freezing powders, of which two descriptions are requisite, are 12s. 6d. per quarter cask, and 7s. 6d. per octave cask.

I am, &c.,
C. CRUTTENDEN,
Deputy Director of Transport Services.

No. 907.

The Director of Stores, War Office, to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 29th October 1867.

With reference to the enclosed correspondence from the Horse Guards, requesting the supply of certain stores required for the 10th company of Royal Engineers, under orders for Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request you will move the Secretary of State for India in Council to inform me, for his information, whether there is any objection to the supply being ordered.

The return of the enclosures is requested.

I have, &c.,
J. CRAWFORD CAFFIN.

No. 908.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 29th October 1867.

No. 907.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, and to acquaint you in reply that he does not think it necessary to send any tools or stores with the detachments of Royal Engineers proceeding to Abyssinia from this country, beyond those which are required for the special duties on which they are to be employed, as any other implements which may be required will be supplied from the Ordnance and Engineer ranks which will accompany the force, which are always provided with the requisite tools for both European and native artificers.

2. I am desired to add that the strength sanctioned for the several detachments, which have now been formed into the 10th company of Royal Engineers, is only 65 non-commissioned officers and men, and that the Quartermaster-General has been informed that it is impossible to accommodate a larger number on board the "Mendoza," without interfering with the conveyance of the stores for which she was primarily engaged.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 909.

The Quartermaster-General to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 29th October 1867.

No. 888.

In reference to the India Office letter of 28th instant, I am desired by the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief to inform you that, the subject having been referred to the Deputy Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers, through the Military Secretary, the enclosed copy of the reply of that officer, which he has received, stating that it was understood that the suggestion of His Royal Highness that a *company* of Royal Engineers should be detailed for service in Abyssinia was agreed to by Sir Stafford Northcote, is forwarded for consideration.

Should it be *impossible* to accommodate more than the number of men specified in the seventh paragraph of your letter, viz., 65, only that number will be ordered to embark, and, as it is impossible to reduce the numbers necessary to the efficiency of a company of Royal Engineers, it is presumed the Secretary of State will authorize passage being provided for the remainder of the men, viz., 18, by some other early opportunity; these men might be sent in Peninsular and Oriental Packet of 4th November.

I have only to add that His Royal Highness concurs with Col. Keane that it would be most desirable, if the whole of this company were accommodated on board the "Mendoza."

I am to request the favour of as early a reply as possible to this letter to-morrow, in order that orders may be issued for the embarkation.

I have, &c.,

J. HOPE GRANT.

Enclosure in No. 909.

Minute by the Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Engineers.

October 29, 1867.

No. 880?

As the letter from the Secretary of State for India to the Quartermaster-General, dated 26th October 1867, was understood to be an approval of His Royal Highness's suggestion that the detachments of Royal Engineer soldiers detailed for service in Abyssinia should be formed into a company under its captain and two subalterns, this has been carried out, and the numbers reduced to the smallest possible scale with regard to its complete efficiency, viz., 83 non-commissioned officers and sappers, and it will be most inconvenient if the "Mendoza" has been so appropriated that she cannot accommodate the whole company. Should this be impossible, I have only to suggest that Lieut. Puzey, Royal Engineers, and 18 of the telegraphists shall be detached to follow the head quarters of the company by the first opportunity. This arrangement will leave seven telegraphists to commence operations with.

H. FANE KEANE,
Col. and D. A. G., R. E.

No. 910.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 29th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to request you will move the Secretary of State for India in Council, to cause me to be informed what description of clothing should be furnished for the ensuing year for the use of the men of the Royal Engineers about to be sent to Abyssinia; also whether the clothing for them will be issued from Bombay, because, if so, the Commanding Royal Engineer can be instructed to make the necessary requisition on the Bombay Clothing Department.

I am to state that all or any proportion of the clothing, as may be decided, can be prepared at the Royal Army Clothing Depôt at Pimlico, and that when ready it can be passed to the India Store Department in the ordinary way for shipment with other stores to Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 911.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Mr. Clements Markham.

Sir,

India Office, 29th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for your information and guidance, copy of a Despatch which is about to be addressed to the Government of Bombay, on the subject of the permission granted to you to accompany the force to Abyssinia as Geographer. No. 938.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 912.

The Assistant Under Secretary of State for India to the Political Resident at Aden.

Sir,

India Office, 29th October 1867.

I am directed by Sir S. Northcote to transmit to you herewith, under flying seal, copy of a letter which has been addressed to King Theodore, by Mr. Trevor Plowden, a near relative of the late Consul Plowden, requesting him to liberate the European captives, together with copy of the correspondence which has led to Mr. Plowden's offer to send such a letter as a private individual, being accepted; and I am to desire that, in taking such steps as may seem best to you to ensure the delivery of the communication to the King, you will use the utmost caution so to transmit it as to mark its wholly unofficial character, and to avoid everything which could identify Her Majesty's Government, however remotely, with it.

Enclosure in
No. 735.

Should you be of opinion that any inconvenience will arise from the transmission of this letter, you are authorized to withhold it.

I am, &c.,

J. COSMO MELVILL.

No. 913.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Italian Ambassador.

M. le Marquis,

Foreign Office, October 30th, 1867.

With reference to my letter of the 23d instant, I have now the honour to inform you that I have communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India the Despatch which you did me the favour to place in my hands, tendering the good offices of your Government with certain Italian missionaries who appear to be in favour with King Theodore, for the purpose of aiding Her Majesty's Government, through their

No. 842.
No. 903.
No. 813.

assistance, to obtain the release of the Abyssinian captives; and, as soon as I receive a reply, I shall do myself the honour of again communicating with you on the subject.

I have, &c.,
STANLEY.

No. 914.

Dr. BEKE to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord, Bekesbourne, October 30, 1867.

No. 485.

On the 25th September I had the pleasure of forwarding to the India Office, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, in compliance with the request of the Right Honble. the Secretary of State for India in Council, a few copies of a pamphlet, printed (but not published) in 1861, being "Letters to the Foreign Office and to the Board of Trade, respecting the Commerce and Politics of Abyssinia and other Parts of Eastern Africa."

At that time, being from home, I was not aware of the existence of more than a few copies of my said pamphlet; but, having just discovered several others, I have thought I could not do better than forward some of them to your Lordship's Department, to be made such use of as you may think fit. This I now beg leave to inform you I have done, in a railway parcel to your Lordship's address.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES BEKE.

No. 915.

The Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

India Office, 30th October 1867.

No. 883.

I am directed by Sir S. Northcote to acknowledge your letter of the 26th instant, with enclosures from Mr. Scarlett and the Baron Von Cuelebroeck, formerly Belgian Secretary of Legation in Egypt, and I am to request that you will convey to Lord Stanley Sir S. Northcote's thanks for the communication in question.

I am, &c.,
HERMAN MERIVALE.

No. 916.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 30th October 1867.

No. 881.

With reference to Major-General Pears's letter of the 26th instant, requesting that the names of the Staff Assistant Surgeons selected for duty on board the hospital ships connected with the Abyssinian expedition might be communicated as soon as possible, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that the officers named in the margin have been ordered to proceed to Suez on board the "Mendoza" (which sails from Woolwich on the 4th proximo) for the duty in question.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

Staff Assistant
Surgeons
J. S. Cogan,
J. Williams,
and D. S. Olden.

No. 917.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, 30th October 1867.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that, in accordance with a special request made by Sir Robert Napier, in a telegram dated Poona, 19th October, he has, with the concurrence of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, approved of Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, R.A., the Assistant Director of Ordnance, proceeding to Abyssinia forthwith to join the expedition.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 918.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Captain Beaumont, R.E.

Dear Sir, India Office, 30th October 1867.

I have laid your letter of the 27th instant, respecting the use of balloons with the Abyssinian expedition, before Sir Stafford Nothcote, but he does not think it desirable to take any steps in the matter unless Sir Robert Napier, to whom your letter will be forwarded, should express a wish to be supplied with one. No. 884.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 919.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 30th October 1867.

With reference to General Pears's letter of the 25th inst., I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you a copy of their minute of the 29th inst., relative to the appointment of Mr. Deutsch as Archæologist to accompany the Abyssinian expedition, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, and for communication to Sir R. Napier. No. 866.

I am, &c.,
GEORGE WARD HUNT.

Enclosure in No. 919.

Treasury Minute, dated 29th October 1867.

Write to the Trustees of the British Museum that my Lords concur with them as to the expediency of sending Mr. Deutsch to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia, for the purposes mentioned in Mr. Winter Jones's letter of October 15th.

Their Lordships will be prepared to defray the cost of his outfit and passage, and to supply him with rations, lodging, &c. on the footing of an officer attached to the expedition; and moreover to sanction an expenditure by him, not exceeding 2*l.* per diem, for defraying the travelling and other incidental expenses which may be necessary in the prosecution of his researches when off the line of march, it being understood that, if the trustees should consider him entitled to any extra remuneration beyond his salary as one of their officers, it must be paid out of the funds at their disposal. No. 743.

In addition to the expenses referred to, my Lords will be prepared to defray the expenses of preparing, and carriage home, of any articles which he may be able to obtain for the British Museum.

It must be understood that Mr. Deutsch will report himself to the Commander-in-Chief, and conform in all things to any directions he may receive from that officer.

No. 920.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Treasury Office, 30th October 1867.

No. 846.

With reference to General Pears's letter of the 24th instant, on the subject of a Zoologist to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia, I am desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that my Lords see no objection to the appointment of a person having knowledge of zoology to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia, as proposed in Mr. Sclater's letter of the 17th instant, to Sir Stafford Northcote.

No. 783.

My Lords will be prepared to defray the cost of outfit, and to provide a passage, and to supply the gentleman who may be named, with rations, lodging, &c., on the footing of an officer attached to the expedition, and to defray any reasonable expenses which may be incurred by him in prosecuting the purposes of his mission when off the line of march, not exceeding two pounds a day. Reasonable expenses incurred in preparing and sending home zoological specimens approved by the Zoological Society will also be allowed.

My Lords are of opinion that the gentleman to accompany the expedition as zoologist should be selected by the Council of the Zoological Society of London. Their Lordships will not be prepared to provide salary or other remuneration.

Further it must be understood that the zoologist will report himself to the Commander-in-Chief, and conform himself in all things to directions which he may receive from that officer.

My Lords would suggest that these instructions should be made known to Sir Robert Napier.

I am, &c.,

GEORGE WARD HUNT.

No. 921.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 30th October 1867.

No. 893.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that a copy of the letter, and of the instructions to the Sanitary Officer of the Abyssinian expedition, will be forwarded for the information of the Government of Bombay and of Sir Robert Napier.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 922.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 30th October 1867.

No. 864.

In reply to your letter of the 25th instant, on the subject of remuneration to be assigned to Mr. Markham as geographer to the Abyssinian expedition, I am desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that my Lords will be prepared to pay to Mr. Markham an amount equal to one-half the salary he now receives as an assistant in the correspondence department of the India Office, during the period he may be employed as geographer to the Abyssinian expedition; and also to supply his passage and maintenance and the cost of necessary instruments.

Further, it must be understood that Mr. Markham will report himself to the Commander-in-Chief, and conform himself on all occasions to the directions of that officer.

I am, &c.

GEORGE WARD HUNT.

No. 923.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

War Office, 30th October 1867.

In reference to the communication from this office of the 28th September 1867, No. 528. and your reply thereto, dated 2nd instant, respecting the staff necessary for telegraphic No. 554. and signalling service with the Abyssinian expedition, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has submitted for the approval of Secretary Sir John Pakington a code of signals (now being printed) prepared under the direction of Colonel Simmons, C.B., Director of the Royal Engineer Establishment at Chatham, by Commander Columb, R.N., and Captain Bolton, 12th regiment, and proposed for use with the signal detachments employed with the Abyssinian force.

I am to observe that it is proposed, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to issue this code, and I am to request that you will move the Secretary of State for India to give his consent thereto.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a memorandum proposed to be appended to the code.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

Enclosure in No. 923.

MEMORANDUM.

The object of this confidential code of signals is to enable communication to be made between Her Majesty's ships engaged in the Abyssinian expedition and troops acting on shore.

It contains also a complete Boat Signal Book, and comprises a complete code of signals for the use of Her Majesty's forces on shore.

Every possible precaution will be taken to prevent this confidential code falling into the hands of any person for whose use it is not intended.

A receipt will be taken from every person into whose custody the book may pass, such person being held individually responsible for its preservation while in his custody.

When no longer required it will be returned to the person whom the General Officer commanding the force may designate, and who will give a written discharge for the same.

The copies issued by the Admiralty through the senior officer of Her Majesty's ships on the East India station, for the use of naval officers employed on the Abyssinian expedition, are to be returned to such senior officer, or otherwise disposed of as he may direct.

No. 924.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir,

India Office, 30th October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a copy of a letter which has been forwarded by Her Majesty's Consul at Trieste, in which the writer, M. Baldini, offers to supply from 500 to 1,000 mules at Brindisi or Trieste, for the price, at present, of 25 napoleons d'or for each animal. Enclosure in No. 857.

2. I am desired to add that the letter is forwarded, in order that the proposition may receive due consideration, in the event of a further demand for pack animals for the use of the Abyssinian expedition being received.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 925.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir, India Office, 31st October 1867.
I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that information has now been received from the Government of Bombay, that Sir Robert Napier wishes to have two rocket batteries manned by the Naval Rocket Brigade, and that they are in communication with Commodore Heath on the subject.

No. 806.
Nos. 801 and
823.

2. I am, accordingly, desired to request that the necessary instructions may be given, by telegraph, to enable Commodore Heath to place a naval brigade at the disposal of Sir Robert Napier, for employment on land with the Abyssinian expeditionary force.

3. Instructions have been given to the Store Department of this Office to provide the necessary tubes and ammunition for the brigade.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 926.

The Military, Secretary, India Office, to Lieutenant St. JOHN, R.E.

Sir, India Office, 31st October 1867.
I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will forthwith inspect the signalling apparatus prepared for the Abyssinian expedition, which is now lying at the maker's, Messrs. Nunn, 67, St. George Street, London Docks, where it will be packed for shipment as soon as it has been inspected.

See Encl-
sure 2 in
No. 898.

2. The equipment for two field stations, which has been employed for the purpose of exercising the men at Chatham, will be taken out under the immediate charge of the officer commanding the detachment, so that their practice in signalling may be kept up during the voyage; and it will be delivered into your charge on arrival at Alexandria.

I am, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 927.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for War.

Sir, India Office, 31st October 1867.
I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that he has given orders to Lieutenant St. John to inspect the signalling apparatus at Messrs. Nunn's, with the exception of the equipment for the two field stations, which will be taken out under the immediate charge of the officer commanding the detachment, in order that the men may continue their practice in signalling during the voyage out; and I have to request that, on arrival at Alexandria, the equipment so retained may be made over to the charge of Lieutenant St. John.

No. 898.

No. 926.

I have, &c.,
T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 928.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Staff Assistant-Surgeon A. Neill.

Sir, India Office, 31st October 1867.
I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 9th instant. I am to thank you for them, and to acquaint you in reply that he will cause copies of your useful suggestions respecting

No. 664.

precautionary measures to be taken by the troops in Abyssinia, for the sake of preventing disease, to be forwarded to the Government of Bombay and Sir R. Napier, though many of them had been already adopted in the instructions given to the sanitary officers of the expedition. Enclosure in No. 893.

2. With regard to your application for service with the expedition, I am desired to state that the selection of medical officers of the British army proceeding from this country to accompany the force, rests with the Secretary of State for War, to whom your application should be addressed.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 929.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Director of Transport Services.

Sir, India Office, 31st October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, and to acquaint you in reply that the cost of the conveyance of the telegraph apparatus, &c. to Egypt, for the use of the Abyssinian expedition, will be claimed by this Office from the Treasury, with whom it will rest to decide to what head of service it will be eventually charged. No. 876.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 930.

Extract of a Letter from the Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster General.

India Office, 31st October 1867.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and to acquaint you in reply that, as it has been proved by experiment that the moulded carbon pocket filters which have been supplied for the use of the Abyssinian expedition are very superior, for filtering purposes, to those made by the London General Water Company, he does not think it desirable to obtain any of the sort recommended by Miss Wallace, to whom a communication on the subject has been addressed. No. 820.

No. 931.

The Under Secretary of State for War to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, War Office, 31st October 1867.

In reference to your letter of the 4th instant, requesting the supply of 500 $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. signal rockets for service in Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that these rockets are now in course of preparation, but that some further arrangements as to the details of the equipment will be necessary before the issue takes place; and, with a view to settling these points in the promptest manner, I am to request that you will move Sir Stafford Northcote to give directions for an officer to attend as soon as possible at Woolwich, and confer with the Principal Superintendent of Stores on the subject. No. 592.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD LUGARD.

No. 932.

The Under Secretary of State for India to Sir SAMUEL BAKER.

India Office, 31st October 1867.

No. 885.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge your letter of the 27th instant, addressed to Lord Stanley, and I am, in reply, to convey to you the thanks of Sir Stafford Northcote for the suggestions it contains.

Sir Stafford Northcote has, however, on a full consideration of all the circumstances of the case, arrived at the conclusion that it would be inexpedient to sanction any independent action, which might in any way interfere with the full powers which have been intrusted to Sir R. Napier as Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian expeditionary force.

I am, &c.,

HERMAN MERIVALE.

No. 933.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1867.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to forward to you, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, a letter addressed to him under flying seal through this Office, by Mr. Walker, the British Vice-Consul at Tripoli, who is now on leave in this country, in which he offers to proceed to Abyssinia with the expedition, and I am to state to you that, if Sir Stafford Northcote should wish to accept Mr. Walker's offer of his services, Lord Stanley will grant him leave to absent himself from his post at Tripoli for the purpose, but his Lordship in no way wishes to recommend Mr. Walker's application.

No. 886.

I am at the same time to transmit to you, for Sir Stafford Northcote's information, a copy of a letter which has been received from Mr. Dupuis, the father of the British Vice-Consul at Tangier, containing information with respect to the best markets for mules.

I am, &c.,

E. C. EGERTON.

Enclosure in No. 933.

The Vice Consul at Tripoli (on leave in England) to the Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Newton Bank, near Chester, October 29, 1867.

I beg to offer my services to accompany the Abyssinian expedition, feeling assured, from my knowledge of the seaboard and frontier of that country, and also from my personal acquaintance with the Nyab of Arkerkoo, who is chief of many of the tribes on the frontier, that I could be of some service to the expedition.

I am conversant with French and Italian, and have a colloquial knowledge of Arabic.

I have, &c.

E. H. WALKER.

No. 934.

The Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir,

Bank of England, 31st October, 1867.

I beg to enclose the bill of lading for 142,000 dollars, shipped per the Austrian Lloyd's steamer that left Trieste on the 28th instant for Alexandria, and to inform you that the drawing account of the Secretary of State for India has been debited 30,003*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* on account of this transaction.

I am, &c.,

R. MAY,

Deputy Chief Cashier.

No. 935.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to the Quartermaster-General.

Sir, India Office, October 31, 1867.

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst., forwarding copy of a memorandum by the Deputy Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers, and suggesting with reference to my letter of the 28th October, that, should it be impossible to accommodate more than the number of men specified in the 7th paragraph of that letter, viz., 65, the remainder of the men, viz., 18, might proceed by some other early opportunity, perhaps by the P. & O. Company's steamer of the 4th of November. His Royal Highness further expresses concurrence in the opinion of the Deputy Adjutant-General, "that it would be most desirable if the whole of this company were accommodated on board the 'Mendoza.'"

2. In reply, I am instructed to request you will inform His Royal Highness that, while leaving the organization of the several parties of Royal Engineers detailed for special employment in Abyssinia in the hands of His Royal Highness, Sir Stafford Northcote did not contemplate the necessity of any addition being made to the number of men already determined upon as sufficient for those several duties, nor did he understand that any such addition was essential to the military organization or efficiency of the body.

3. I am further desired to state that, without unloading and removing a portion of the stores already shipped, it will not be practicable to find accommodation on board the "Mendoza" for a greater number of non-commissioned officers and privates than have been already provided for.

4. Should, however, His Royal Highness be still of opinion that it is necessary to send the additional 18 men as a reserve, Sir Stafford Northcote will make no further objection, but will cause passage to be provided for them by the first opportunity.

5. I am to suggest, however, for the consideration of His Royal Highness, that these men, if intended as a reserve for telegraphic, photographic, and other special departments, should be instructed, to a certain extent, in the duties of those departments before embarkation. Sir Stafford Northcote is of opinion that the proposal of the Deputy Adjutant-General of Royal Engineers to detain 18 of the trained telegraphists should on no account be entertained, but the party to be embarked on board the "Mendoza" should consist of the men already detailed for and instructed in the several duties for which their services have been required.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 936.

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Under Secretary of State for India.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 31st October 1867.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, with reference to the minute of this Board of 23d September, and to the letter from the India Office of 25th September, that my Lords have appointed Mr. Charles George Turner to proceed to Bombay for the purpose of aiding in the examination of the accounts and vouchers connected with the Abyssinian expedition, in the manner proposed in their minute above mentioned.

My Lords desire me to transmit herewith copy of the instructions which it is proposed to issue to that gentleman for his guidance, which my Lords trust will meet with the concurrence of the Secretary of State.

I am, &c.,

GEORGE WARD HUNT.

Enclosure in No. 926.

Instructions for Mr. TURNER'S Guidance.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having, with the assent of the Secretary of State for India in Council, appointed you to proceed to Bombay to be employed there on behalf of the Imperial Government upon the accounts of the expenditure for the Abyssinian expedition, I am to instruct you to observe that your duties there will be to co-operate with the Officers of the Indian Government in examining the accounts of the expenditure incurred for the expedition, to give information as to the nature of the vouchers that should be sent to this country to sustain such accounts, and to make reports to their Lordships from time to time upon the matters arising out of such examination which may seem to call for observation.

No. 490.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has stated to this Board that he has no desire to relieve the revenues of India from the charge of the troops which are to be sent to Abyssinia so long as it is not necessary to replace them by others, and that "he is prepared to agree that the ordinary pay of those troops, European and Native, that may be employed in the expedition shall be borne by Indian revenues, on the distinct understanding that every other charge, whether for replacing officers or soldiers withdrawn from their duties, or for extra allowances, pensions, or gratuities to officers or soldiers, or for pensions to families of officers, soldiers, or others who may be killed or disabled on this service, or on any other account, shall be repaid by the Imperial Exchequer, and that, when it shall be found necessary to replace any portion of the force withdrawn from India, the whole expense consequent thereon shall be repaid to the Indian Government."

Upon this understanding, to which my Lords have agreed, the ordinary pay of the troops in the service of the Indian Government which may be employed in the expedition will be borne by Indian revenues; and the expenses for Commissariat services, sea and land transport, foreign service batta and allowances, staff salaries, wound pensions, and gratuities to European officers or warrant officers of the Indian services, and pensions to their families, also wound pensions to Native soldiers or followers and pensions to the families of men killed in action or dying on service, as prescribed by the Indian regulations, compensation for loss of baggage, if captured by the enemy or lost on service, the expense of replacing staff and other officers withdrawn from India to serve with the expedition, and all other charges whatever (with the sole exception of the ordinary pay of the troops) incurred on account of the Abyssinian expedition, will be repayable to the Indian Government out of the Imperial Exchequer.

It is possible that in some instances a difficulty may be found by the officers charged by the Indian Government to make up the accounts in separating the items properly chargeable to the current expenditure of Bombay from those relating to the expedition, and it will be your duty to give them every assistance in this matter, and to call the attention of the officers charged with the examination of these accounts in India to the case of any item debited to the account of the expedition which you may consider not properly so chargeable.

You will then report to my Lords upon every item in the final monthly account upon which a question has been officially raised, showing, firstly, those cases in which the view taken by yourself is not concurred in by the Indian officers, and, secondly, the cases in which the explanations which have been given to you have satisfied you as to the admissibility of the claim. The statement of these explanations in your reports may prevent similar questions being raised upon the accounts when they reach this country.

You will, however, understand that it is not the intention of my Lords to transfer to you any portion of the responsibility, either financial or otherwise, involved in the arrangements for the expedition, or to give you any power of interfering in any manner with those upon whom the responsibility of the arrangements will rest, but that the object which my Lords have in view in sending you out is to furnish them with full information as to these accounts, and facilitate the settlement of them in this country.

On reaching India you will report your arrival to the Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government, who will place you in communication with the Indian officers charged with the preparation of the accounts, with a view to the arrangement of the most convenient mode of carrying out the duties confided to you. It is understood that the accounts will be rendered monthly, with the vouchers in support of them, and as you complete your examination of these you will mark them as examined with your initials. The charges should, as far as practicable, be classed under the several Army and Navy votes to which they will be debitable.

The Bombay Government will probably place at your disposal office rooms in one of the public buildings, so that you may be in convenient proximity to the Indian officers with whom you will have to act, and should you find it necessary to incur the expense of clerk hire such moderate charges as may be necessary will be allowed.

The Admiralty and the War Office will supply you with a memorandum, showing in greater detail the classification of vouchers which will be most convenient to them, and the nature of the arrangements for making and supporting the claims for repayment which will most facilitate the early settlement of the accounts between the two Governments.

No. 937.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 140.

Sir,

India Office, 31st October 1867.

No. 527.

Para. 1. I forward a copy of a letter which has been received from Mr. John Laird, M.P., stating that "the Government in Bombay are refusing to charter iron sailing ships as transports for the Abyssinian expedition."

2. In Sir Charles Wood's Despatch to the Government of India, in the Marine Department, dated the 23d of May 1862, No. 25, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, it was laid down that wooden and iron ships should be placed on the same footing as regards their engagement for transport, and I conclude that you have been guided by those instructions during the present operations.

3. I request you, however, to cause inquiry to be made whether there has been any instance of an iron vessel been rejected, *as such*, on the ground of its being for that reason inferior to a wooden ship as a transport.

4. A copy of a letter which has been received from the Admiralty, in reply to an inquiry as to the course adopted in the selection of transports in this country, is forwarded of your information. No. 746.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 938.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 142.

Sir, India Office, 31st October 1867.

Para. 1. At the recommendation of the President of the Royal Geographical Society, I have permitted Mr. Markham to accompany the force with Sir R. Napier during the proposed operations in Abyssinia, as Geographer.

2. In communicating this to Sir R. Napier, I request that you will inform his Excellency that it is not the intention of Her Majesty's Government that Mr. Markham shall be placed in any official position, or invested with any departmental authority; but they do not doubt that Sir R. Napier will give him every assistance in his power, and every information that the several public departments can afford in furtherance of his important labours and researches. Mr. Markham has been informed that, when he is within the limits of Abyssinian territory, his movements must be entirely subject to the control and sanction of the Commander-in-Chief.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

No. 939.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

Military, No. 145.

Sir, India Office, 31st October 1867.

Para. 1. In continuation of my Despatch dated the 15th of October 1867, No. 131, No. 738. I proceed to inform you of the measures which have been adopted in this country, since that date, in connexion with the expedition to Abyssinia.

2. In the first place I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 14th of September, No. 70, forwarding further correspondence between your Government and those of India and Madras relative to the preparations for the expedition, and also of your letter dated the 28th of September, No. 75, in which you reply to my Despatch of the 3d of that month, No. 107. No. 736. No. 823. No. 193.

3. It is unnecessary to remark at length on the various points to which you refer, but I desire in general terms to communicate to you the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the measures adopted by you and the several departments under your Government for the furtherance of the object in view.

4. An extract of your letter relating to the co-operation of Commodore Heath, and the arrangements made respecting the superintendence of the transport service under Captain Tryon, has been communicated to the Admiralty. No. 896.

5. You will have learned from my previous Despatches that the wish of Sir Robert Napier to be furnished with a second mountain battery has been complied with, and that one battery was forwarded to Egypt by the "Serapis" on the 16th of October. The remainder of the guns and equipment will be placed on board the "Mendoza," which will leave England on the 4th of November for Alexandria.

6. Copies of a report by Colonel Wray on the mountain batteries were forwarded to you in the packet by a previous mail, and copies of a further paper respecting the equip- Enclosure in No. 779.

ment are now enclosed for your information. Other copies have been transmitted to Sir Robert Napier at Aden.

No. 925. 7. The Lords of the Admiralty have been informed of the desire of Sir Robert Napier that a Rocket Brigade should be formed from the seamen of the squadron under the command of Commodore Heath, and on the receipt of your telegram dated the 18th instant, instructions were given for the provision of the tubes and ammunition therein requested. On application to the War Office, however, it was found that there were no 12-pounder rockets in store, and that it was impossible to manufacture the requisite quantity before the time at which they would be needed. It has therefore been determined to send for the use of the force 1,800 of the 6-pounder rockets (weighing 9 lbs. each) similar to those already sent out, and 12 machines with special friction tubes, but only 826 of the rockets will be ready for despatch on board the "Mendoza."

No. 801. 8. This steam vessel has been engaged for the conveyance of the telegraph stores, mountain battery and equipment, pack-saddles, &c. to Egypt, and for the passage of the medical officers and the detachments of Royal Engineers who are proceeding from this country to Abyssinia, for the duties connected with the telegraph, signalling, photography, and working of the tube wells. This arrangement is found to be considerably less expensive than it would have been to engage passages on board the mail steamers for the officers and men, and to have paid freight for the tonnage of stores which were ready for shipment, while the additional advantage has been gained of sending the telegraph stores in the immediate charge of the party appointed for the working of the line.

No. 536. 9. My telegram of the 30th of September will have prepared you for the receipt of the greater part of these stores by a vessel leaving England on the 25th of October, and in the 7th paragraph of my Despatch No. 131 you were informed that circumstances had delayed the despatch of the stores for a few days. It is now determined that the "Mendoza" shall start on the 4th of November, and she may be expected to arrive at Alexandria in about 16 days from the date of sailing.

No. 848. 10. As you have been informed by my telegram of the 24th instant, 13 medical officers of the British army will proceed to Egypt on board this vessel, the other three, to complete the number asked for in your telegram of the 24th of September, being directed to join the force from Gibraltar, Malta, and Aden respectively, where they are at present stationed.

No. 482. 11. The medical officers of the Bombay army who were in England on leave of absence were directed, on the receipt of your message, to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Suez for duty with the expedition, should Sir Robert Napier require their services. Only four, however, Nos. 626 and 627. namely, Surgeons Niven and Plumptre, and Assistant Surgeons Lalor and Barrie, have been found available for such service. Letters from the several officers named in the margin, or reports of the Medical

Surgeon-Majors J. R. Miller, W. Campbell, J. C. Trestrail, H. Giraud, F. W. Harris, C. J. Sylvester, J. Daubeney, J. Bean.

Surgeons G. F. Brown, W. G. Hunter, W. E. Wood, A. Fox, C. Thomson, J. Glen, J. M. Barnett, C. G. H. Ross, E. R. Butler, W. D. T. Ticehurst.

Assistant Surgeons G. C. Bell, C. K. Colston, R. Byramjee.

Board on the state of their health, are enclosed. Surgeon Butler, having been reported to be unfit for field service, has been permitted to return to his duty in Bombay, and Surgeon Ticehurst has also been permitted to return at the expiration of his leave, under the special circumstances mentioned in his letter.

12. All the officers proceeding in the "Mendoza," whether belonging to the Royal Engineers or Medical Staff (a nominal list of whom is enclosed), have been directed to await instructions at Suez from the Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary force. They will be brought upon the strength of the Abyssinian force from the date of their arrival at Suez, and will be available for any duty on which his Excellency may desire to employ them.

No. 725. 13. A copy of a letter from the War Office, dated the 14th of October, with its enclosures, detailing the names of the Medical Officers of the British Army selected for this service, and containing certain suggestions respecting the employment of Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals S. Currie, C.B., is forwarded for your information, together with an extract of the reply thereto, dated on the 17th of October.

No. 784. 14. With reference to the papers which accompanied the 21st paragraph of my No. 738. Despatch of the 15th instant, respecting the establishments placed on board the hospital ships, I have to apprise you that, as it appeared from your demand for medical officers from this country that no reserve would be sent from India, I have concurred in a suggestion of the Secretary of State for War that three extra assistant surgeons should

No. 881.

be sent out for duty with the hospital ships. These officers will proceed to Egypt by the "Mendoza."

15. The thirty sets of apparatus for treatment of fractures and reduction of dislocations, which were indented for in your Despatch of the 26th of March last, had been shipped on board a steamer at Liverpool, for despatch to Bombay *via* Egypt, before the receipt of your telegram of the 11th instant. They have, however, been re-landed, and will be forwarded with the other stores which are being sent for the Abyssinian expedition. No. 712.

16. A copy of a letter dated the 28th instant, from the War Office, with the accompanying memoranda of instructions to the Sanitary Officer who may be appointed by your Government to attend to the general measures requisite for the health of the force, is herewith transmitted, and another copy will be forwarded direct to Sir Robert Napier, at Aden, by the present mail. No. 893.

17. I also enclose a letter which has been received from Staff Assistant Surgeon A. Neill, giving many useful suggestions, derived from experience acquired during his residence in Abyssinia, respecting measures which should be adopted for the preservation of the health of the troops. Copies will be forwarded to Sir Robert Napier, for distribution to the Commanding Officers and Medical Officers of the force. No. 664.

18. Your telegram of the 5th of October, asking for the services of one Staff veterinary surgeon and three veterinary surgeons from this country, having been transmitted to the War Office, I have been informed that, after consulting with the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, Sir John Pakington has determined on meeting the demand from among the veterinary surgeons who are now employed in the East in the purchase of mules; and Colonel Clark Kennedy will be instructed to select that number of officers for service in Abyssinia, so soon as he shall be enabled to do so by the delivery of mules at Alexandria by the transports. No. 662.
No. 644.
No. 780.

19. The number of men of the Royal Engineers who are about to be sent for duty in Abyssinia, being in the aggregate greater than it appeared desirable to the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to place under the charge of a subaltern, His Royal Highness has caused the several detachments to be re-organized and formed into the 10th Company of Royal Engineers, under the command of Brevet-Major Pritchard, Royal Engineers. The duties devolving upon this officer will not, however, interfere with the special employment for which Lieutenants St. John and Le Messurier have been selected. A copy of the correspondence on this subject, which has passed between this Office and the War Office and Horse Guards is forwarded for your information. Nos. 685, 771,
859, 870, 880,
888, 909, and
935,

20. In the 24th paragraph of my Despatch, No. 131, I stated that I had sanctioned the provision of 50 of Norton's tube wells, for use in Abyssinia. The number has since been increased to 100, in accordance with the recommendation of the Director of the Engineer Establishment at Chatham. No. 738.
No. 861.

21. In the 15th paragraph of the above-mentioned Despatch, which was written the day before the receipt of your telegram of the 15th instant, you were informed that Colonel Clark Kennedy had been instructed to extend his purchases of mules to the number of 8,000, provided that they could be ready within the specified time. In connexion with this subject, I telegraphed to you on the 22d, to inquire whether you could manage with the 5,000 pack-saddles already under provision. To this I have, as yet, received no reply. No. 738.
No. 740.

22. At the suggestion of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, I have sanctioned, as an experiment, the construction of five pack-saddles on the principle invented by Lieutenant M'Mahon, Royal Engineers, which will be sent for trial with the force, and I shall be glad to receive a report on their efficiency for field service, in comparison with the Ottago pattern. No. 891.

23. Your Secretary's letter, No. 31, enclosed a copy of a telegram asking for the supply of 500 McGwire hammocks, respecting which you were informed in the 12th paragraph of my Despatch, No. 124, that they were packed and would be forwarded as soon as possible. Your subsequent telegram of the 18th of October has also been received, asking for an additional supply of 1,500 hammocks of the same pattern. The 500 first ordered, and 350 of the remainder, will be sent to Suez by the "Mendoza," and the rest, which will be ready on the 18th of November, will be forwarded by an early opportunity after that date. In order to avoid delay, a slight deviation from the original pattern has been permitted in the second supply; it is, however, believed, that in all essentials they are not inferior to those previously ordered. No. 388.
No. 540.
No. 800.

No. 386. 24. The telegram, of which a copy was forwarded with your Secretary's letter No. 32, respecting the weight of packages, was noticed in the 13th paragraph of my above-mentioned Despatch, No. 124 of 1867.

No. 540. 25. The stores required for the Armstrong guns, asked for by a telegram of the 23d of September, of which a copy was received with your Secretary's letter of that date, No. 33, were despatched to Aden by the vessel of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company which left Southampton on the 4th of October. Subsequently, your telegram of the 11th of October, correcting your previous demand, was received. The fuzes therein asked for, which had not been previously supplied, were forwarded to Aden by the mail steamer of the 27th instant.

No. 708. 26. A detailed list (No. 5) of the stores ordered up to the present time for the purposes of the expedition, forms an enclosure to this Despatch.

No. 738. 27. In continuation of the papers which were forwarded with the 13th paragraph of my Despatch, No. 131, respecting the aid granted by the Ottoman Government for the purposes of the expedition, I transmit a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, dated the 19th instant, with its enclosures, respecting the facilities afforded for the passage of the British troops through the Egyptian territory.

No. 809. 28. You were informed, in the last paragraph of my Despatch, No. 124, that a request had been made by the Ambassador of the King of Italy that permission might be granted to two Officers of the Italian army to accompany the expedition to Abyssinia. Similar applications have been made by the representatives of the Swedish and Netherlands Governments; and I enclose a copy of the reply which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with my concurrence, has caused to be addressed to the several Ministers. A similar answer will be given to applications of a like nature in future.

No. 540. 29. A copy of a letter addressed to me, on behalf of the Committee of the Church of Scotland for watching over the interests of Her Majesty's Presbyterian soldiers and sailors, is forwarded for your information, together with a copy of the reply which I caused to be sent.

No. 751. 30. The enclosed work, on the Falasha and Kamants in Abyssinia, with a vocabulary of the Falasha language, composed by the Rev. Martin Flad, and edited by the Rev. Dr. Krapf, having been brought to my notice, I have obtained 200 copies, which will be forwarded to Sir Robert Napier.

No. 852. 31. I forward a copy of a letter from Colonel Claremont, giving an interesting account of a conversation which he has held with M. Galinier, one of the authors of a French work on Abyssinia.

Enclosure in No. 605. 32. With reference to your telegrams of the 5th and 15th of October and to my reply of the 18th (of which a copy is enclosed), I am desirous that, as stated in my telegraphic message of the 10th, you should use your own discretion in the matter of the construction of a railway from the coast to the highlands. Should you decide on adopting it, I shall be prepared to co-operate with you, by the speedy supply of such stores and materials as you may require from this country.

Nos. 621, 741, and 802. 33. In addition to the various papers which have been already transmitted to you on this subject, I forward a letter from Mr. Haddon, C.E., with its enclosures, respecting a pontoon railway which he proposes to lay down. As he states that a copy of the papers was sent to you by the last mail, the drawing, of which only one copy was received, will be forwarded direct to Sir Robert Napier.

No. 683. 34. An extract of a letter from Mr. Manby, which has been forwarded to me from the War Office, respecting an Engineer named Jeffrey Bey, is also enclosed, for your information.

Enclosure in No. 826. 35. In continuation of the papers which accompanied the 17th paragraph of my Despatch of the 15th of October, I forward a copy of the letters noted in the margin,* respecting the issue of articles of clothing, &c., to the

Nos. 629, 630, 770, and 803.	* Oct. 7th, 1867.	Issue to detachment of Royal Artillery.	Despatch of the 15th of October,
	" " "	" " Military Train.	I forward a copy of the letters noted
	" 16th, "	" " Royal Engineers.	in the margin,* respecting the issue
	" 18th, "	" " "	of articles of clothing, &c., to the

Detachments proceeding to Abyssinia.

36. The services of Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, R.A., the Assistant Director of Ordnance, have been placed at the disposal of Sir Robert Napier by the Secretary of State for War, with the concurrence of the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, for

employment with the Abyssinian expedition, in compliance with the special request made in His Excellency's telegram of the 19th instant.

See No. 917.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 939.

List of Officers proceeding to Alexandria on board the "Mendoza."

Brevet-Major Pritchard, R.E.	Staff Assistant Surgeon R. Gillespie, British Army.
Lieutenant St. John, R.E.	" " J. Martin "
" Le Messurier, R.E.	" " W. C. Robinson "
" Morgan, R.E.	" " K. Macard "
" Puzey, R.E.	" " E. Townsend "
Staff Surgeon-Major T. Guy, British Army.	" " T. S. Cogan }
" " W. Deeble "	" " J. Williams } For hospital
Staff Surgeon A. Temple, British Army.	" " D. S. Olden } ships.
" C. D. Madden "	Surgeon W. Niven, Bombay Army (subsequently
" R. Webb "	permitted to proceed by P. and O. steamer to Suez).
Staff Assistant Surgeon W. Jay "	Assistant Surgeon F. H. Plumptre, Bombay Army.
" " J. Collins, British Army.	" A. Barrie "
" " H. W. Deolin "	" J. Lalor. "

Enclosure 2 in No. 939.

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition.

No. 5.

India Office, 4th November 1867.

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.		
Blue serge banyans -	4,000	Liverpool	Bombay -	"England" -	1867. 12th September.			
Flannel shirts -	4,000							
Neck comforters -	4,000							
Jersey shirts -	4,000							
Worsted stockings pairs	4,000							
Nightcaps -	4,000							
Gloves - pairs	4,000							
Great coats -	500							
Boot, - pairs	12,000	London -	Aden or Massowah.	"Golden Fleece"	27th September.			
Boot laces, spare -	12,000							
Mittens - "	4,000							
Blankets -	12,000	Liverpool	Bombay -	"Queen" -	14th September.	Will be sent to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria, about the middle of November.		
Salt beef, Admiralty lbs.	70,000	"	"	"City of Manchester"	18th September.			
" pork, " "	35,000	"	"	"	"			
" beef, Powell & Sons' "	2,016	London -	Aden or Massowah.	"Golden Fleece" -	27th September.			
" pork, " "	954	"	"	"	"			
Essence of beef $\frac{1}{2}$ pints	2,400	Liverpool	Bombay -	"City of Manchester"	18th September.			
Preserved potatoes lbs.	15,000	London -	Aden or Massowah.	"Mauritius"	27th September.			
Compressed vegetables -	15,000	Liverpool	Bombay -	1,400 lbs., "Mauritius"	"			
Dessicated milk - doz.	50			13,616 lbs., "Coreyra"	12th October.			
Compressed forage - tons	500			"Mauritius"	27th September.			
				63 tons, "England"	12th September.			
				11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "Queen"	14th September.			
				150 " "Golden Fleece"	27th September.			
Compressed hay and forage -	393			178 " "Coreyra"	12th October.			
				97 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "Mendoza"	4th November.			
Waterproof sheets -	30,000	Liverpool	Bombay -	12,000, "Queen" -	14th September.			
"	"	"	"	7,000, "England"	12th September.			
"	"	London -	Aden or Massowah	11,000, "Mauritius"	27th September.			
Portable cooking ranges, Warren's pattern.	40	"	Alexandria	24, "Mendoza"	4th November	May perhaps be withdrawn to make room for more important stores; if so, will be shipped with the rest, if possible, about the middle of November to Suez, <i>via</i> Alexandria.		
Perkins's portable ovens, } 2 large, 1 small - }	3	2 Liverpool 1 London	Bombay- Aden or Massowah.	1 per "England" - 1 per "Queen" - 1 per "Golden Fleece"	12th September 14th September 27th September	The oven, per "Golden Fleece," is half the size and weight of the other two.		
Waterproof covers -	2,100	Liverpool London -	Bombay- Aden or Massowah.	1,350, "England" - 750, "Mauritius"	12th September. 27th September.			

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition—*cont.*

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
Bell tents, double, with spare poles, &c. -	323	Liverpool	Bombay -	"Queen" - - -	14th September.	
Bell tents, single, with spare poles, &c. -	677	"	"	" - - -	"	
Hospital marquees, with spare poles, &c. -	50	"	"	" - - -	"	
Yeast, malt lbs.	3,600	London -	Aden or Massowah	"Queen of the South" -	27th September.	
" hops - "	500	"	"	"Mauritius" - - -	"	
Filters, portable - -	5,000	"	"	{ 100, "Golden Fleece" -	"	
				{ 140, "Mauritius" - -	"	
Maltese carts - -	400	"	"	{ 160, "Queen of the South" -	"	
				{ "Golden Fleece" - -	"	
Grease for ditto - lbs.	2,800	"	"	{ 340, "Coreyra" - -	12th October.	
Pack-saddles - -	5,000	"	Alexandria	{ 3,440, "Mendoza" -	4th November.	It is possible that some of the pack-saddles may be withdrawn from the "Mendoza" to make room for more important stores; if so, that portion and the remainder of the saddles will be shipped about the middle of November.
Harness - - - sets	1,206	London -	Aden or Massowah	{ 204, "Golden Fleece" -	27th September	1,206 sets are considered a sufficient proportion, and no more will be sent.
				{ 198, "Mauritius" - -	"	
				{ 804, "Queen of the South" -	"	
				{ 102, "Golden Fleece" -	"	
				{ 99, "Mauritius" - -	"	
Traces, short - - pairs	900	" -	" -	{ 402, "Queen of the South" -	"	
				{ 297, "Mendoza" - -	4th November.	
				{ 34, "Golden Fleece" -	27th September.	
				{ 33, "Mauritius" - -	"	
				{ 135, "Queen of the South" -	"	
				{ 198, "Mendoza" - -	4th November.	
Rifles, Snider, infantry -	4,114	Liverpool	Bombay -	{ 2,000 "Queen" - -	14th September.	
Carbines, Snider, cavalry -	200	" -	" -	{ 2,114 "England" - -	12th September.	
" " artillery -	800	" -	" -	{ "England" - - -	"	
" " " -		" -	" -	{ "Queen" - - -	14th September.	
Scabbards, snap-caps, wrenches, and small-arm materials for repair of arms -	cases 44	" -	" -	{ 21 cases, "Queen" -	"	
				{ 23 " " "England" -	12th September.	
Cartridges, Snider, ball, service -	rounds 2,500,000	" -	" -	{ Half per "Queen" -	14th September.	
				{ " " "England" - -	12th September.	
Do. do. do. reserve, -	2,420,000	London -	Alexandria	"Mendoza" - - -	4th November.	
Do. do. blank, -	20,800	Liverpool	Bombay -	{ Half per "Queen" -	14th September.	
				{ " " "England" - -	12th September.	
Forges, armourer's, Dodd's	6	" -	" -	"Queen" - - -	12th September.	
Tools, armourer's, special -	cases 12	Liverpool	Bombay -	{ 6, "Queen" - - -	"	
				{ 6, "England" - - -	14th September.	
Mountain batteries (steel) -	2	London -	Alexandria	{ 1, H.M.S. "Serapis" -	16th October.	
				{ 1, "Mendoza" - - -	4th November.	
Ammunition for do. rounds	12,000	Portsmouth	" -	{ 6,002, H.M.S. "Serapis" -	16th October.	
		London -	" -	{ 5,998, "Mendoza" - -	4th November.	
Rockets, Hale's, 6-pounder	304					
Machines for do. - -	4					
Panniers, - - - pairs	12	Portsmouth		{ Half by H.M.S. "Serapis" -	16th October.	
Pack-saddles, - - -	12	London -	" -	{ " " "Mendoza" - -	4th November.	
Tubes, friction, copper -	400					
Lanyards, friction tube -	24					
Magnetic field instruments	4					
Copper wire, B. G., -	miles 350					
85 standard - -						
Drums for winding -	175					
Hooper's core, 20 diameter -	miles 50					
Wire, iron, No. 8 gauge - -	cwt. 4					
Insulators, in cases of 200 each - -	2,000					
Relay instruments, recording -	cases 8					
Field instruments, recording -	" 12					
"Marie Davy's" Elements, 12 in case -	" 12					
"Marie Davy's" Elements, 24 in case -	" 8					
Cases containing earth plate, &c. -	12	London -	Alexandria	"Mendoza" - - -	"	
Cases containing repairing instruments -	4					
Insulators - - -	2,000					

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition—*cont.*

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port consigned.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
"Marie Davy's" Elements, 8 in a case - }	8					
Galvanometers - - }	2					
Morse paper for relay instruments - }	500					
Morse paper for field instruments - }	500					
Lightning dischargers - - }	4					
Proto-sulphate of mercury, in tins of 5 lbs. - }	100					
Connecting screws - - }	100					
Bottles of ink - - }	72					
Blocks and tackles, iron. - }	3					
Billhooks - - - }	50					
Axes, American - - - }	10					
Handles, spare, for axes - - }	20					
Bcrers, earth - - - }	6					
Scoops - - - }	12					
Hooks for fixing insulators - - }	12					
Whistles - - - }	56					
Clasp knives - - - }	25					
Turnscrews - - - }	6					
Despatch bags - - - }	12					
Two-wheeled barrows - - - }	12					
Connectors - - - }	100					
Tents, bivouac - - - }	6					
Tables for ditto - - - }	6	London	Alexandria	"Mendoza"	4th November.	
Camp stools for ditto - - - }	12					
Water bags, india-rubber - - }	6					
Lamps, globe - - - }	20					
Gloves - - - pairs - }	50					
Iron wire, galvanized, in coils of 135 lbs. each. - }	50					
Stationery and printed forms. - }	13					
Boat, india-rubber - - - }	1					
Compasses, pocket - - - }	6					
Field glasses - - - }	4					
Clocks, portable - - - }	6					
Rocket signals, $\frac{1}{4}$ -pound - - }	500					
Army signals - - - }	20					
Crowbars, iron - - - }	24					
Consol stands, complete - - }	8					
Charts of Red Sea, &c. - - }	200	London	Bombay	By post - - -	18th September.	
Normandy's condensing apparatus. - - }	1					A Normandy's apparatus for Aden will be sent out in the course of this month, <i>via</i> Cape. Two were sent in May last. One of these might be used for Abyssinia, and will be replaced from home as soon as possible.
Adapter's fuze for 12-pr. Armstrong guns for G. Battery at Aden - - }	702					
Bursters, common, filled, for ditto - - - }	702	Southamp-ton	Aden	{ Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company - - }	4th October.	
Fuzes, concussion, for ditto - - }	702					
Shells, common, for ditto - - }	702					
Shot, case, for ditto - - - }	283					
Leggings - - - pairs - }	4,000	London	Alexandria	"Mendoza"	4th November.	
McDougall's powder - - - }	2	"	"	"Corcyra"	12th October.	
Warburg's fever drops, bottles - - - }	500	"	"	"Mendoza"	4th November.	
Dislocation apparatus sets - - }	30	"	"	"	"	
Apparatus for sinking Norton's American tube wells, sufficient for - - }	50	"	"	"	"	
Driving apparatus for ditto, sets - - - }	10	"	"	"	"	
Pumps, chain, Bastier's patent, complete with spare articles, &c. - - }	3	"	"	"	"	
Fuzes, time, E. - - - }	1,404	Southamp-ton.	Aden	{ Peninsular and Oriental Steam " Navigation Company - - }	27th October.	
Hammocks, field, McGwire's - - }	1,500	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	The greater portion, if not all, per vessel to sail 18th instant.
" " " - - - }	500	London	Alexandria	"Mendoza"	4th November.	
Rockets, 6-pounder - - - }	1,800	"	"	500 "	"	
Machines for ditto - - - }	12	"	"	8 "	"	
Tubes, special friction - - - }	-	"	"	1,000 "	"	

RETURN of STORES provided and under provision for the Abyssinian Expedition—*cont.*

Description of Stores.	Quantities.	At what Port shipped.	To what Port con-signed.	Name of Vessel.	Date of Sailing.	Remarks.
Abyssinian voca- bulary. } copies	200	London -	Alexandria	"Mendoza" -	4th November.	
Tube wells, additional, complete. } sets	50	- -	- -	- -	- -	These extra tools for the patent tube wells, if not shipped by the "Mendoza," will be despatched about 18th instant.
Caps for covering wells -	20					
White lead, extra - kegs	10					
Forge, portable -	1					
Sledge hammer, 8 lbs. -	1					
Hand ditto -	1					
Forge tongs - pair	1					
Chisels, rod -	2	- -	- -	- -	- -	Will be despatched about 18th instant.
Vice -	1					
Pack-saddles, McMahon's } patent.	5	-	-	-	-	

HENRY C. G. BEDFORD,
For Director-General.



Enclosure 3 in No. 939.

Mr. HADDON to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

39, Vincent Square, October 25th, 1867.

In reference to my interview with General Pears, I beg to enclose herewith plans and descriptions of my portable railway, as then explained to him, and venture to request notification may be made of them to the proper authorities in India, to whom drawings were sent last mail.

Not trusting my own judgment, I have conferred with Mr. Hughes, of the Millwall Iron Works, a gentleman well known to the War and Admiralty Departments for his great practical knowledge, and I beg to enclose letter from him, which contains his opinions and suggestions.

I have, &c.,
J. L. HADDON.

Enclosure 4 in No. 939.

Description of Haddon's "Pontoon" Railway.

The principle of Mr. Haddon's invention is to obtain a sleeper, which shall be very *light* during transport, and very *heavy* when laid; and this is accomplished by making the sleepers or pontoons in the form of long sheet-iron cans, and ramming them with sand, earth, small stones, or other convenient material; if sand is employed a little aluminium may sometimes with advantage be mixed with it.

As the various pieces, rails included, do not weigh more than 50 lbs. each, they can be easily carried, All loose bolts and small iron are dispensed with, and beyond ramming the sleepers and tightening a few bolts, no mechanical labour is required, and even this, being so simple, coolies could perform.

This system of railway can be laid equally well on a hard road as on sand; and being when rammed excessively heavy, no ballast is requisite, laying the sleepers on the natural surface being sufficient.

Each piece is made distinct in itself, the rail being rivetted down to the sleeper, but in such a way that one end shall project, while the reverse end recedes, so as to allow each piece to step on to and break points with its successor.

The tie bar is provided with studs and turned-up ends, and is merely slid on to the ends of the last laid pair of rails before the next pair are placed, and requires no bolts to keep it in position.

The ordinary bridge rail fish bar is used to obtain a junction longitudinally.

The rails can, of course, be made distinct from the sleepers, and render thereby each pontoon only 20 lbs. instead of 50 lbs.; but, it being obvious that the fewer the pieces the less likely they are to be lost or misplaced, I have adopted the former system in the Drawing. For a narrower gauge transverse sleepers can be used. Being air-tight, these land pontoons can also be used on water. On an emergency they would answer well for gabions.

Timber sleepers cannot be used in a tropical climate with advantage, and in all cases require ballasting.

The time required to cut hard wood sleepers, and the difficulty of transport, owing to their weight, is immense, and seldom is accomplished by inexperienced hands without grievous casualties from falling trees, jungle fever, &c., and, even when accomplished, the timber, being green, after a few days' tropical sun becomes so warped and deranged as to be perfectly useless. Supposing even wooden sleepers ready made were sent to the point of debarkation, the difficulty of transport and necessity for ballasting still remain.

If required to change the position of the railway, merely empty the pontoons and they can be transported again with the greatest facility.

A railway if laid from the sea to the nearest healthy range of mountains would greatly benefit the troops, and would also enable the General to use the mountains as his base of operations. By banking up a small ravine (a common practice in India) a large store of water can be collected both fresher and more plentiful than any well supply.

If all other plans failed, condensed water (as used in Aden) could be sent from the ships to the camp in two hours by railway.

Mr. Haddon, who has passed some years in India, Spain, Russia, &c., therefore speaks from experience, and places himself entirely at the service of the Government.

Nó. 940.

The Secretary of State for India to the Governor General in Council.

Military No. 316.

Sir,

India Office, 31st October 1867.

In continuation of my Despatch, dated the 15th instant, No. 287, I forward, for No. 749. the information of your Excellency, a copy of a Despatch which has been this day No. 939. addressed to the Government of Bombay, respecting the further preparations which have been made for the Abyssinian expedition.

2. With reference to the telegram received from you on the 11th instant, respecting No. 682. the supply of Medical Officers for the force, you will observe that measures had been already adopted for meeting the requirements of the Commander-in-Chief on that point.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

LONDON :

Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

FURTHER PAPERS

CONNECTED WITH THE



ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1868.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	FROM.	TO.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
1	Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier.	The Secretary of State for India.	1867. Dec. 31.	Arrival at Aden en route to Annesley Bay; summary of intelligence from Abyssinia.	1
2	" "	" "	1868. Jan. 3.	Arrival at Annesley Bay; disposition of the troops, condition of the Land Transport Corps, &c. &c.	2
				Enclosures.	
				Reports by Brigadier-General Merewether, C.B., and Major-General Sir C. Staveley, K.C.B.	3 to 6
				Journal of the Deputy Quartermaster-General, 13th Nov. to 8th Dec. 1867.	6 to 19
				Brigadier-General Merewether; account of the tribes occupying the Koomayloo and Huddas routes.	20
				Reconnaissance from Senafé to Attigerat.	22
3	" "	" "	Jan. 20. Zoulla.	Review of affairs in Abyssinia; negotiations with Kassa, Prince of Tigré, and Wagshum Gobazyi of Lasta.	27
				Enclosures.	
4	" "	" "	Jan. 16. Zoulla.	Conduct of the Egyptian Governor of Massowah.	30 to 32
5	" "	" "	Jan. 18. Zoulla.	On the subject of the apprehensions of the Egyptian Government as to the objects of the expedition.	32
6	" "	" "	Jan. 8. Zoulla.	State of affairs at Zoulla; distribution of the troops.	34
7	" "	" "	Jan. 11. Zoulla.	Reports of progress	37
8	" "	" "	Jan. 16. Zoulla.	" " " "	38
				Enclosures. Letters from the captives.	39 to 40
9	" "	" "	Jan. 19. Mulikuttoo.	Distribution Return of the force.	40 to 44
10	" "	" "	Jan. 20. Zoulla.	Maintenance of the mule dépôt at Suez.	45
				Enclosures.	
				Précis of political intelligence from the 8th to the 15th Jan.	
11	}	-	-	Letters from Dr. Blanc and Consul Cameron to Brigadier-General Merewether.	46
12				Letter from Prince Kassa of Tigré to Brigadier-General Merewether.	47
13				Political intelligence up to the 8th of January.	47
14	-	-	-	General order issued on assuming command at Annesley Bay.	48
15	Sir R. Napier	-	Jan. 3.	General order thanking General Staveley and the various departments at Zoulla for the progress made.	48
16	"	-	Jan. 7.	Journal of the Deputy Quartermaster-General from 9th to 13th December 1867.	48
17	-	-	-		49

No.	FROM.	To.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
18	Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier.	Governor of Bombay	Zoulla.	Demi-official note; summary of former reports to the Secretary of State.	53
19	" "	Secretary of State	Zoulla, Jan. 22.	Gives reasons showing the impracticability of attacking Theodore during his march from Debra Tabor to Magdala.	55
20	Lieut.-Colonel M. Dillon, Military Secretary to Sir R. Napier.	Secretary of State	Zoulla, Jan. 23.	Arrival and movements of troops; January 25, reports the intended advance of a brigade from Senafé on Antalo.	55
21	Deputy Secretary to Government of Bombay.	The Under Secretary of State for India.	Bombay, Jan. 28.	Forwards letters from Mr. Rassam and Dr. Blanc.	57
22	Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier.	The Secretary of State.	Senafé, Feb. 1.	Memorandum of the operations of the Force.	63
23	" "	" "	Senafé, Feb. 2.	Forwards letters from the captives; negotiations with Wagsham Gobazye, Prince of Lasta; temper of the natives friendly; copy of letter addressed to the chiefs of the Wolla Gallas.	65
24	The Assistant-Adjutant - General, A. E. F.	Secretary of State	Zoulla, Feb. 3.	Arrival of troops	72
25	Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier.	The Secretary of State.	Feb. 5.	Major Grant's account of his mission to Prince Kassa, at Adowa.	72
26	<i>The Military Secretary, India Office.</i>	<i>Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier.</i>	March 6.	<i>Congratulating him on the arrangements and progress made, and concurring in his acknowledgment of the services rendered by the military and naval branches of the force.</i>	73
27	Lieut. - General Sir R. Napier.	The Secretary of State.	Attigerat, Feb. 14.	Arrival at Attigerat on the 6th February; letters from the captives; reception of a deputation sent by Prince Kassa; relations with the Shoho tribes entrusted to Capt. H. Moore and Meer Akbar Ali of the Intelligence Department.	74
				Enclosures.	
				Appendix B.— <i>Précis</i> of intelligence 11th February.	180
				Appendix C.—Further account by Major Grant, C.B., of his mission to Prince Kassa.	80
				Appendix H.—Notes on the position, products, and people of Adowa.	82
28	" "	" "	Attigerat, Feb. 7.	Dr. Krapf, Amharic Dragoon, compelled to relinquish his appointment in consequence of ill health.	85
29	" "	" "	Attigerat, Feb. 16.	Intended interview with Prince Kassa at Ad. Abaga; occupation of Antalo by the Pioneer force; the telegraph extends to Senafé; state of the Transport Train; climate healthy.	86
30	" "	" "	" "	Numerical return of the force	89
31	" "	" "	" "	Journal of the Deputy Quartermaster-General, 19th January, to the 11th February 1868.	91
32	" "	The Secretary of State for India.	Attigerat, Feb. 12.	The pioneer force has reached Dolo. Transport still deficient.	101
33	" "	Under Secretary of State.	" 11.	No large steamer can at present be spared.	101

No.	FROM.	TO.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
34	Lieutenant-General Sir R. Napier.	The Secretary of State.	Adabaga, Feb. 21.	Arrived at Adabaga on the 19th Feb.; await the result of a message sent to Prince Kassa proposing to fix a time and place for meeting; report by Capt. Moore of operations among the Shoho tribes; visited by the priest of the monastery of Goondi-Goon- deh. Enclosures. Visit of Major Grant and Capt. Speedy to Hawzein. Letters from the captives - Large reductions effected in the number of native followers. Baggage reduced.	101
35	"	"	Adabaga, Feb. 22.	Journal of the Deputy Quarter- master-General, 13th to 20th February.	101 105 111
36	"	"	Dolo, Feb. 29.	Interview with Prince Kassa at Maiadeaab. Monsieur Mun- zinger deputed to the camp of Wagshum Gobazyé.	112
37	"	"	Haikhullut, March 1.	Enclosures. Letters from the captives - Distribution of the troops in the advance on Magdala. The Lake Ashangi route chosen. Halt while the road towards Ashangee is being made prac- ticable; visit to the church and town of Chelicut. Letters from Mr. Rassam.	119
38	"	"	Camp near Antalo, March 8.	Reports on the Land Transport Corps, the railway, the tele- graph, the photographic, sig- nalling, and well sinking establishments, and the trigonometrical survey.	123 126
39	"	"	" 8.	Journal of the Deputy Quarter- master-General 21st February to 8th March.	130
40	"	"	Attala, March 14	Letters from the captives - Do. do. in Magdala; précis of reports from Mon- sieur Munzinger on his mission to Wagshum Gobazyé, Prince of Lasta.	134
41	"	"	"	Telegrams announcing the cross- ing of the Jidda and the Bashilo; defeat of Theodore's army on the 10th April; Magdala taken by assault on the 13th; death of Theodore.	138
42	"	"	March 16.	Letters from the captives and from Monsieur Munzinger; final advance on Magdala; all heavy baggage left behind.	146
43	"	"	Lake Ash- angi, March 19.	Arrival at Dildee on the 24 March, 60 miles from Mag- dala. Country rugged and difficult. Letters from the captives. Mr. Rassam re- leased from chains. Wags- hum Gobazyé en route from Debra Tabor to Talanta.	151
44	"	"	"	Arrival at Santra on the 28th March; marching fatiguing and laborious. Extremes of temperature great. Visited by Dejaj Mashashah, com- mander of the forces of Wags- hum Gobazyé.	155
45	"	"	Lat, March 12.		156
46	"	"	Dildee, March 25.		160
47	"	"	Santra, March 29.		163

No.	FROM.	TO.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	Page.
48	Lieutenant - General Sir R. Napier.	The Secretary of State.	Lartaga, March 29.	Journal of the Deputy Quarter- master-General, 8th to 20th March.	166
49	<i>Military Secretary I. O.</i>	<i>Lieutenant - General Sir R. Napier.</i>	May 1 -	<i>Deputation of two officers on the part of the W. O., to assist in the disposal of sur- plus stores, &c.</i>	174
50	<i>The Secretary of State for India.</i>	" "	" -	<i>Congratulations on the suc- cessful conclusion of the campaign. Copy of the mes- sage sent by Her Majesty the Queen.</i>	176
51	Lieutenant-General Sir R. Napier.	The Secretary of State.	Talanta, April 5.	Cavalry of Dejazmaj Mashasha fired upon by mistake by a picket of the 2nd Brigade; letters from the captives; Mr. Rassam's companions un- fettered; the Jidda crossed by a forced march.	177
52	" "	" "	Scindee, April 3.	Reports on the Land Transport Corps; the railway; the tele- graph; the photographic, sig- nalling, and well sinking establishments; the trigono- metrical survey and the pos- tal department; distribution of the force on the 1st April.	181



FURTHER PAPERS

CONNECTED WITH

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

SELECTIONS FROM THE DESPATCHES OF SIR ROBERT NAPIER.

No. 1.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 20th January 1868).

Right Honourable Sir, Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Her Majesty's Ship "Octavia," 31st December 1867.
I have the honour to acquaint you of my arrival at Aden, last evening, on board of Her Majesty's ship "Octavia," and purpose to proceed to Annesley Bay during this afternoon.

The reports from Abyssinia, dated December 23d, are generally satisfactory.

The condition of the transport was improving.

The Persian and Egyptian muleteers reported to be worthless and mischievous would probably be brought into some order by the introduction of large numbers of soldiers, British and Native, whom I had instructed Sir Charles Staveley to employ, without hesitation in the Land Transport Corps.

The 33d Foot and 1st Belooch Battalion have already afforded 250 men.

The political intelligence is also satisfactory.

The people were well disposed and confident. The Chiefs professed friendship.

Some supplies were being brought into camp at Senafé, where forage was described as plentiful.

Fuller reports will be forwarded on my arrival in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure.

Colonel Merewether writing to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, from Senafé, on 13th December 1867, forwards copies of letters that day received from Messrs. Rassam and Blanc, at Magdala, and Mr. Flad with the King's camp.

Mr. Rassam, under date Magdala, 10th November, writes:—

Since his last, on 28th October, little worth mentioning has taken place. Rumour said, Theodorus had reached to about one-fourth of the distance between Magdala and Debra Tabor, but was meeting with steady opposition from the peasantry. It is rumoured that Manilek (the grandson of Saheela Salasee), the present ruler of Shoa, is marching with a large army against Magdala, having declared himself the King of Ethiopia.

Mr. Blanc, writing on November 7th from Magdala, says:—

"This will have to be apprehended, that when the British force approaches one gate of Magdala, the garrison may run off by the other, and take the prisoners. Wakshum Gobazae is collecting the tribute in Godjam; Manilek is backing up with a strong force the Queen Workeite. Theodore has no doubt destroyed Debra Tabor and tried to plunder Gahinte, but seems not to have succeeded, as his men run away whenever opportunity serves."

Again on 11th, —

"Theodore is still about 30 miles from Debra Tabor. His soldiers are deserting, and are all inclined to fight." * * * * *

Mr. Flad, from Warangia Makabar, on the 14th October, last, writes:—

Is with the King on march from Debra Tabor. King very proud of his big mortar. Many soldiers have deserted, but he still has plenty. Our people suffer from famine. Theodore had shown anger towards Mr. Flad on one occasion, because he did not work like the artisans in the gun foundry. Next day he had been at pains to re-establish good understanding.

Colonel Merewether, in writing to His Excellency Sir R. Napier on 11th December, disapproves of the Pasha of Egypt's intervention having been permitted, and remarks, that such letters as his will but show ranged on our side the ancient enemies of Abyssinia. Earnestly hopes measures may yet be taken to induce recall of the Pasha's troops from Massowah. Abdul Kadir might remain with his frigate to watch events, but the troops should be away. * * * * *

Colonel Wood, in writing from Zulla to Colonel Dillon, 22d December last, mentions his having learned from Captain Edye, R.N., senior Naval Officer in Red Sea, that the contractor had not the means of conveying to Annesley Bay the 4,000 camels now at Aden; that the contractor's luggalas now at Zulla might be able, by coasting along the shore, to reach Aden in three weeks, and that if an attempt should be made to tow them on transport ships, against the high seas, they would take even longer, as the steamers would constantly have to cast them adrift, for fear of their own bows being dragged out. This seems serious, in view of the extent to which we may have to rely on camel transport. Matter is represented, lest His Excellency should see fit to make other arrangements for forwarding the camels.

Above letter from Colonel Wood contained extract of a Letter from Colonel Merewether to Sir C. Staveley, in which it is stated that,—

M. Munzinger has returned from Adowa, with satisfactory letters from the Prince Kassa. The report at Adowa was, that Theodore had been forced to retrace his steps to Debra Tabor. It is doubtful if Theodore can last long now. Prince Manilek was close to Magdala, evidently waiting till treachery would give him easy entrance.

Aden, 31st December 1867.

M. DILLON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Secretary.

No. 2.

From Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., to the Secretary of State for India (received 20th January 1868).

Commander-in-Chief's Office,
Her Majesty's ship "Octavia,"
3d January 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to inform you of my arrival in Abyssinia this day on board Her Majesty's ship "Octavia."

The following is a brief summary of the condition of affairs :—

TROOPS.

At Senafe.

3d Light Cavalry.

Native Mountain Train Battery.

Detachment, Bombay Sappers and Miners.

10th Regiment, Native Infantry.

At Koomayloo.

G. Battery, 14th Brigade, Royal Artillery.

(The horses and drivers of this battery are at Senafe, having been moved up to avoid the epidemic from which horses have suffered severely.)

1st Company, 33d Regiment.

In the Koomayloo Pass, moving to Senafe.

5 Companies, 33d Regiment.

At work in the Koomayloo Pass.

Bombay Sappers.

1 Belooch Battalion.

1 Company, 21st Bombay Native Infantry (Marine Battalion).

At Zulla.

Disembarked and about to disembark.

Detachment, Sind Horse.

3d Battery, 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, with Steel Mountain Battery.

5th Battery, 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, with Steel Mountain Battery.

Madras Sappers and Miners.

4th King's Own Regiment.

4 Companies, 33d Regiment.

3d Bombay Native Infantry.

25th Bombay Native Infantry.

21st Punjab Pioneers (wing).

The health of these troops is excellent. Of the British there are only 45 sick.

I regret to learn that Captain Smythe, 33d, died of apoplexy on board a hospital ship, and that Captain Benson, Royal Artillery, was drowned during passage to Annesley Bay, but no other casualty in the force has been reported.

The severe epidemic amongst the horses, described as the "African glanders," continues to affect those on the coast, but the horses at Senafe are free from disease.

TRANSPORT CORPS.

The following exhibits the state of the Land Transport at this date:—

Officers	-	-	-	-	-	14
Inspectors and supervisors	-	-	-	-	-	389
Muleteers	-	-	-	-	-	1,365
Camel men	-	-	-	-	-	700
Bullock drivers	-	-	-	-	-	290

Baggage Animals.

Camels	-	-	-	-	-	1,739
Mules	-	-	-	-	-	5,480
Ponies	-	-	-	-	-	376
Bullocks, draught	-	-	-	-	-	267
„ pack	-	-	-	-	-	619
Carts	-	-	-	-	-	114

The mules are suffering from the epidemic.

The reports of the Egyptian and Persian muleteers continue to be most unfavourable.

COMMISSARIAT.

The Deputy Commissary-General states that cattle and sheep are plentiful on the coast.

His returns show that he has, landed or on board of ships in the harbour, supplies for nearly three months for British troops, and six months for Natives.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Quartermaster-General reports that the Senafe and Zulla line is at present practicable for a battery of Artillery with its waggons, except for about one and a half mile in the Sooro defile and two miles close up to Senafe, and that both these places may be made practicable in a fortnight by strong working parties of troops.

Under emergency, G. Battery, 14th Brigade, Royal Artillery, might now be carried over the Sooro obstacles, as well as those referred to near Senafe.

Telegraphic communications between Zulla and Koomayloo were to have been established this day.

Enclosed are Brigadier-General Merewether's letters and reports, which will afford the latest political intelligence.

Major-General Sir C. Staveley's reports, and Colonel Phayre's diaries, are also forwarded.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinian Expedition.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

Brigadier-General MEREWETHER, C.B., on special duty, Abyssinia, to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commander-in-Chief.

Sir,

Camp Mulkutto, 2d January 1868.

In connexion with previous Despatches, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a letter received yesterday from His Excellency Jafir Pacha, Governor General of the Soudan, in reply to one of mine addressed to him soon after his arrival here in October, and I take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the valuable assistance I have received from the different Officers of His Highness the Viceroy of Egypt since the English troops first came to this country.

2. I also have the honour to forward a copy of another letter from Prince Kassa, received at Raha Geddee, on my way down from Senafé. I had before written, but the letter had not reached, conveying thanks to him for having sent Murcha Wurke back to me, also the Officer with him, and for the orders he had been good enough to issue for supplies being readily produced for the troops as required. In answer to the last letter, I informed him of the other having been despatched, and thanked him for having forwarded the messenger with the letters which were for Mr. Rassam at Magdala. I likewise intimated that I was on my way to meet Your Excellency, and that on my return to Senafé I would again communicate with him.

3. I left Senafé on the afternoon of the 28th ultimo, and arrived here on the morning of the 31st with Colonels Phayre and Wilkins, M. Munzinger, and Dr. Martin. Before leaving I explained everything to Colonel Field, commanding advanced brigade and at Senafé, leaving Dr. Krapf with him and Murcha Wurke to communicate all information regarding matters going on in the neighbourhood and country generally. All was perfectly satisfactory as reported by me on the 25th ultimo, and there was no reason to suppose that any change was likely to occur.

4. The report that the forces of King Theodorus and Wagshum Gobizye were opposite and close to each other was not confirmed by subsequent information. The latest news was that Theodorus was near Debra Tabor, Wagshum on the east side of Lasta, and Menilek 25 miles south-east of Magdala.

A letter has been received at Massowa from a merchant in Bellessa, not far from Debra Tabor, to the effect that Magdala had fallen into the hands of Prince Menilek, but I have no faith in the report, and only mention it in case Your Excellency should hear it from any other source.

5. The road to Senafé is being rapidly improved, the lower part of the Sooroo pass will be finished by the end of this week, and there will then only remain the one very bad part to complete, which, with the additional men about to be put on the work, should be ready in about three weeks time. The head quarters of the Belooch Regiment having moved up to Upper Sooroo, will give working parties to clear and define the road from that place towards the wells at Maiyen. The company of the Marine Battalion under Lieutenant Becke, with a body of 49 Shohos he has had under his charge for some time for road making purposes, will work on from Maiyen towards Raree Geddee. A detachment of the Belooch Regiment, under Captain Hogg, have already made four miles of road below the Raree Geddee pass, and would ultimately meet the marines coming on from Maiyen.

6. I am happy to be able to report that the well first sunk at Maiyen has proved a complete success in regard to supply of water. On the 28th ultimo, the whole of the horses of the G./14, Royal Artillery, with the accompanying mules, obtained a sufficiency of water, and on the 29th idem, when we were encamped for the day there, though every endeavour was made to draw the well dry, it could not be done. The second well had to be abandoned, solid hard rock having been met with. A third, near

* Water has since been found, December 3d.

the first, was nearly finished, and showed every signs of water being close at hand.* M. le Mesurier, with the American pumps, was to have proceeded to Maiyen on the first instant from Koomeylee, and would set up a chain pump to draw from the first well and search for the best places to sink others. Even with the two wells, may now be used as a place to halt troops for the day, and the long march from Upper Sooroo to Raree Geddee is now no longer necessary.

7. At Koomeylee, the hand pumps brought out by Lieutenant Le Mesurier had answered perfectly. Some had been used for the existing or fresh sunk wells, others had been driven direct into the soil until they reached the water level, and a supply more than equal to the demand was the result. There were five pumps at work and four wells for hand drawing. This had led to the conclusion that Koomeylee would be a better source of supply to the coast than either Uddoda or Wah. At those two places the water appears above ground, and is liable to become impure, as well as to lose by evaporation. That there is little chance of the supply failing at Koomeylee, under ordinary circumstances, may be reasonably inferred, from this being the driest period of the year, or of any season ever likely to recur. The summer rains in the highlands, which feed this stream, were unusually poor, and the winter fall has been, beyond all precedent, late. The circumstances could not be more adverse, yet there is an abundant supply of excellent pure water, naturally filtered, and with no risk of evaporation. The proposal to bring water by pipes to the coast having been brought forward, the question followed which was the best head. Colonel Wilkins, Chief Engineer, quite concurs in the opinion that Koomeylee is the preferable one. It is nearest to the coast, the supply is apparently inexhaustible, there is no fear of the water becoming impure, and there are fewer difficulties in regard to the ground the piping will have to be carried over than from Uddoda or Wah. Moreover, Koomeylee must always be held by a detachment of troops, being at the head of the pass used as the road for the army to the highlands of Abyssinia. The sub-surface stream at Koomeylee is the same as that revealed in the Sooroo pass, only protected at a depth of about 12 feet by the soil alone. Colonel Wilkins has recommended 17 miles of 5-inch piping should be procured from England to bring the Koomeylee water to Mulkutto, this will give a little length of pipe over the actual requirements, but the excess will come into play for necessary branches near the terminus. The water to be raised by a chain pump, worked by bullock power. A supply thus obtained will be invaluable, should the army be returning towards the commencement of the hot season. The hand pumps brought out by Lieutenant Le Mesurier will also answer very well up in Abyssinia. At Senafé, Atigerat, &c., the water is found in pools in the centre of valleys, these being more or less boggy at the edges; the mules find great difficulty in drinking from them, but the pumps can be driven anywhere into the soil near the pools, and plenty of water be found at a few feet below the surface, which will then be discharged into troughs prepared for the purpose.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General,
on special duty, Abyssinia.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

Memorandum by Major-General Sir C. STAVELEY, K.C.B., for the information of His Excellency General Sir R. NAPIER, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commander-in-Chief.

Camp Mulkutto, 3d January 1868.

The advanced brigade and horses of the G./14, Royal Artillery, are at Senafé, under command of Colonel Field.

The whole of the Belooch Regiment is distributed in working parties along the Komaylie pass, at posts indicated in the accompanying plan.

Four (4) companies of Bombay Sappers are working at the roads in the pass, as per plan.

One (1) company of Madras Sappers is at Komaylie, making arrangements for drawing water and supply of the same to the animals there.

Two (2) companies of Madras Sappers are at Mulkutto, also 3d Native Infantry, 25th Native Infantry on board ship, and 4th King's Own in course of disembarkation, three companies at a time.

One (1) company of Madras Battalion is working with a pump party of the Royal Engineers, under Lieutenant Le Messurier, at Undul wells in the pass.

Each party in the pass is working both ways, to meet the parties on its flanks.

The guns and gunners of the G./14, Royal Artillery, one (1) company of Beloochees, and the remainder of the Royal Engineers, are at Koomaylie.

Three (3) companies of the 33d marched from Komaylie for Senafé on the 3d instant.

Three (3) companies of the same regiment from Mulkutto for Senafé on the same date.

The remainder of the same regiment will march on the 6th instant.

I propose that the 25th Bengal Native Infantry should follow the 33d to Senafé, and that the 3d Bengal Native Infantry should remain for the present at Mulkutto.

The two (2) mountain train batteries from England are being organized at Mulkutto. As muleteers cannot be spared for them from the Transport Corps, I have called for volunteers from the Native Infantry regiments, and propose writing to Aden this day for further volunteers from the 7th Native Infantry.

There is no uneasiness at present regarding the water supply.

The accompanying Return, marked A., from Major Mignon, shows that at present he can provision on the march to and at Senafé the Sinde Horse, two (2) more Native regiments, and two (2) mountain batteries.

Return B. shows the number of transport animals; this distribution is undergoing change, and will stand thus, viz. :—

2,800 mules at Senafé.
 700 camels between Raraguddee and Upper Sooro.
 400 mules between Upper Sooro and Komaylie.
 600 pack bullocks between Upper Sooro and Komaylie.
 1,300 camels between Komaylie and Mulkutto.

The troops are in excellent health.

Shelter is required for the muleteers at Senafé; provision in this respect is being made for those now there, but not for those going.

C. STAVELEY, Major-General.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2.

Memorandum by Major-General Sir C. STAVELEY, K.C.B., for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Camp Zoola, 29th December 1867.

I am glad to be able to state that the transport is more efficient than when I last reported. This is owing to the arrival of followers from Bombay and to 230 Egyptian deserters sent back by the Egyptian Government from Massowah having returned to duty.

All the mules as yet arrived are now equipped and at work.

Numbers are daily expected, and it is to be hoped that muleteers will arrive from Bombay to take charge of them.

The Egyptian and Persian muleteers cannot be prevented riding when on the march, and as they have each only (3) three mules in charge, (1,000) one thousand out of every (3,000) three thousand are mere riding mules for these worthless men. They take no care of their animals, and will often not take the trouble to water or feed them, nor dismount to reload mules that are badly packed, or otherwise come to grief.

I would again strongly recommend these men being all sent away, and replaced by muleteers from India.

I regret to say that the epidemic which prevailed among the horses, has now attacked the mules, the mortality being about (3) three per cent. daily.

Mr. Lamb, Principal Veterinary Surgeon, from information he has obtained, is of opinion that no horses or mules can live in the plains during the months of January and February.

I would send all to work in the passes, were there camels enough to do the work in the plains, which at present there are not.

To save the horses of the G./14, Royal Artillery, I have moved them to Senafé, leaving the guns at Koomayloo, whence they can be drawn by the battery bullocks when the road permits.

The whole of the Belooch Regiment, one company 10th Bengal Native Infantry, and three companies of Sappers are now at work in the passes. The Snider rifles have just arrived for the 33d Regiment.

Blankets from the hospital ships will be lent to the men, and the regiment will march in a few days for Senafé.

Colonel Wilby's brigade is now arriving, and will be sent up to Senafé as transport is available, one regiment remaining to perform the duties here.

I have just returned from Senafé, where I found everything in good order, and troops healthy, the epidemic among the 3d Cavalry horses has ceased, but horses and mules arriving from the plains are many of them taken ill, either on the march or on arrival. There is plenty of grass there for the animals, but the supply of barley from the inhabitants is not always equal to the requirements.

Mr. Lamb reports that jowls are much required for the mules, who suffer greatly from the cold at Senafé.

As some can be procured in the neighbourhood, I have authorized Colonel Field purchasing what he can. I would, however, recommend that a supply be sent from Bombay.

Muleteers, farriers (nabunds), warm clothing, and boots are much required for the Transport Corps.

Captain Twentyman reports that the boots that have been received are too small, and of bad quality.

Captain Tryon is sending two (2) ships to Aden for a portion of the camels waiting transport there; but he doubts if the ships will be able to make way against the strong head-winds now prevailing.

Major Mignon still requires experienced Commissariat Inspectors and writers. He states that the supply of biscuit is running short, and that mule kegs for carrying spirits are much required. From what he hears from his Assistant at Senafé, he thinks that the country will not supply a sufficiency of grain for the horses and transport train, and that provision should be made from Bombay or Egypt.

It would be satisfactory to know what are the arrangements for a continuous supply of fresh vegetables.

Mules are continually arriving from Egypt, but still short handed. No muleteers have as yet arrived from India, except with the advance brigade and Bengal mules.

Six hand pumps of the best description are required for the water supply here. They are for pumping water out of boats into shoots, and from tanks into troughs, and should be able to force water (20) twenty feet high.

Good fire engines would answer well, and would, moreover, be useful in case of fire among the stores.

C. STAVELEY, Major-General,
commanding Abyssinian Field Force.

Enclosure 4 in No. 2.

Quartermaster-General's Journal, from 13th November to 8th December 1867.

Wednesday, 13th November.—Marched at daylight with our detachment of Cavalry, and nine days' provisions. Road up the right bank of the torrent towards Uddoda to Illaleea, miles 11-1-160. the mouth of the Huddas pass. At 3½ miles entered the Height above sea level 1,372 feet. hills on the south side of the pass. At four miles entered Aneroid 28° 1. one of the main branches, and at five miles reached the junction of the road to Arkeko and Mussowa.

From Uddoda the first four miles is quite impassable for artillery, and nearly so for any troops, owing to the thick thorny jungle and large stones.

After entering the Huddas there is less jungle, but the road surface is, if anything, rougher than before, owing to the sharp edged, firmly embedded rocks and stones that cover it nearly the whole way to Illaleea.

The bed of the Huddas is nearly filled with large tamarisk trees hereabouts. The tamarisk attains the dimensions of a tree in those torrents. Pass Humhummo at seven miles, where is only water sufficient for a few persons.

At Illaleea there is abundance of flowing water for a short distance in that torrent, which enters the Huddas from the eastward at 11 miles from Uddoda. Owing to Flowing water at Illaleea less than usual, the deficiency of rain at Halai and Tekoonda last season, the stream does not reach the bed of the Huddas at present as it usually does.

The Illaleea torrent leads to the Dugga plateau, which, however, is inaccessible to laden animals from this side, and almost so to men. Mules could travel up Dugga plateau extends nearly to Mahio. the bed for 12 miles, but not more.

Tents would not be of any use at Illaleea, but if troops were pitched about a furlong below the water in the bed of the Huddas, they would be so; there is ample shade, however, Encamping ground confined in the bed of the Huddas. beneath the rocks of Illaleea there is plenty of shade during the day. beneath the rocks of Illaleea for about

5 or 600 men.

The bed of the Huddas is much more rugged and rocky than that of the Koomaylo, so far as we have seen up to this point. Should a field battery with its gun carriages Roadway up the Huddas. and waggons be ordered up the Huddas, a great deal will have to be

done to prepare the road from Uddoda to Illaleea for its proper transit.

The Huddas seems to be much narrower than the Koomaylo, as a general rule, with less space on the banks.

Forage at height of 1,000 feet. There is a little forage here high up amongst the hills, requiring a good deal of labour to reach it.

Thursday, 14th November.—From the junction of the Illaleea torrent the Huddas turns to the south-east, and narrows to 150 and 200 feet for about three Illaleea to Tubbo, miles 11-1-100 : 2,711 miles, and then to 50 and 100 as far as the head of Deema feet above sea level. running stream, a mile further. The Deema is a very fine body of water flowing on the surface for nearly two miles, but the road from Illaleea to the head of Deema is quite impassable for wheeled carriages, and very bad for mules and camels.

The torrent winds so much, and the gorge is so narrow, as to necessitate your crossing the stream a great number of times in each mile, so that the rises and falls Road from Illaleea to Deema. from the bed up steep slopes to the banks, and *vice versa*, are incessant, and trying to men and cattle.

On to Sadoon, three miles, and to Tubbo, four miles, it is not so continuously bad as before; still, more than half of that distance would require a good deal of labour Deema to Sadoon. to make it easily passable for troops.

As regards the natural practicability of the road surface, the Huddas from Uddoda upward, cannot be compared to the Koomaylo. The difficulties of the latter are more concentrated, as at Sooro, and thus easier disposed of, but those of the former continue for miles.

The Koomaylo could be made practicable for field artillery with much less time and labour than the Huddas; and the former being the more useful and important line, it appears to be the one upon which to bestow the more care and labour.

Owing to want of space on the banks of these torrents, and the danger of choking them with large bodies of men and Suggestions as to the mode of moving large bodies of troops up these torrents. cattle, I would recommend that stronger bodies than a Royal Artillery, three companies of European Infantry, would be a still better proportion. squadron of Cavalry or a wing of European Infantry should not encamp at each halting place at one time.

This morning our march was delayed till 7 a.m., in consequence of the Commissariat Establishment having taken three hours to pack the few mules (100) we have with us. This was chiefly owing to

the want of muleteers, and also to the sulky insubordinate conduct of the Egyptian and Persian muleteers, who came from Suez and the Persian Gulf, and who are only in the proportion of one man to five animals, one of which they claim for their own personal use to ride on. These men give a great deal of trouble, ill use the people of the country, and only yesterday some of them stole a sheep from a passing flock, killed, and stowed it away for their own use. When detected, they beat the native whose property it was. Colonel Merewether deprived the Egyptian muccadam of his place, and placed him, and another man who used threatening language, in charge of the guard. Owing to the general conduct of all the Persians and Egyptians who arrived at Amesley Bay with mules, it was long ago felt to be quite impossible to retain them in the service.

Good grass is to be had high up on the hills at Tubbo, but a great deal of labour would be required forage near Tubbo. to reach it.

The tributary torrents Eidaydillee, Abrarega, Furrem, and Willoo enter the Huddas within the last five miles of Tubbo. There is water in Abrarega, but not much.

The Dugga plateau and mountains mentioned yesterday bound the westward side of to-day's route to Tubbo, and the Reote hills the eastward. Mist covered the summits of the latter this morning.

There is a fine stream of good water at Tubbo, with rather thick jungle both in the bed and on the banks of the Huddas. There is not much space for encampment, but what there is

Water at Tubbo. should be cleared of jungle and stones, and be swept clean. The tamarisk and baubool trees are very fine in these levels.

Friday, 15th November.—Having brought with me the guides who surveyed this route from Uddoda

Tubbo to Mahio seven miles seven to Tubbo under Major Baigrie, I have arranged for them to continue furlongs. Height above the sea 3,571 feet. their survey to the foot of Tekoonda under escort of our detachment.

Aneroid 25-86. The road to-day good throughout, and requiring very little labour in the way of clearance of loose stones and boughs of trees to make it

Road good from Tubbo. easy for wheeled carriages. The torrent is wider than between Illaleea and Tubbo. The trees and bushes increase in parts of the march between Tubbo and Mahio.

Ulleelai watering place. Abundant At two miles came upon a fine stream of water, which lasted for supply of good water. three hundred yards.

Detachments might encamp on the banks of the torrent wherever these streams occur between On our return march we halted at Ulleelai. this and Illaleea. The great point is to avoid having too

Places of safety should be cleared and levelled, many men at one place, in order that, should the torrent come wherever troops halt. If this is not attended to, down, there may be means of safety for all; and in those parts baggage animals would certainly be swept away. where water flows on the surface this is generally speaking quite possible.

Thus the head and rear of a column may extend from Mahio to Illaleea.

Grass near Mahio, but high up. Observed some grass near this on the slopes of the mountains, but none at hand for travellers.

At five miles pass the Assubo torrent, by which there is a great caravan road to Dixah by the steep and difficult Taranta pass, the foot of which is about three miles up

Road to Dixah by Tarranta pass. this torrent. The watering place at the foot is called Chocoomtar.

Water at foot of Taranta. Water said to be plentiful. This route leaves Halai to the left.

Routes to Halai from the Huddas To Halai there are three routes from the Huddas torrent. near Mahio. The one branches off close to Assubo, and is a bad road, but nearest.

The second is the Bocana road, very steep. The third, the Shumfrita road about two miles on from our present halting place of Mahio.

Saturday, 16th November.—Road good as before for about two miles, except in a few places for short

Mahio to Mayderta, distance nine miles, one distances, as far as the Garbanoba torrent, which here joins the Huddas from the south-westward, and it is said to have foot, 167 yards. Height above the sea 5,295 feet. its rise at the site of the encamping ground of the Abyssinian

Aneroid 24-1-6. Kings near Tekoonda.

"King's Camp" near Tekoonda. The Huddas torrent for four miles or so from this junction narrows, to a width varying from 15 to 50 feet, its bed being broken by several rugged rocky places in that

Defile to Masulai and beyond it. distance. These, however, might soon be made passable for laden cattle.

Pass in this part the watering place of Masulai, where there is usually good flowing water at this season. This year, however, the rain fall at Tekoonda having been

Marulai watering place six miles from Mahio. No water this year. very deficient, we only found a little stagnant rain water in a cavity of the rocks not fit for men to drink.

It should be remembered that the periodical rains of Abyssinia have only ceased about six weeks since, consequently when there is at present a scarcity of water at any place beyond the range of the lowland rain fall, it may be assumed there will be none at all, in about six weeks' time, unless heavy rain should fall in the highlands in the interim.

There is an appearance of rain in the highlands at present, and it is possible that a fall may take place, which, if a heavy one, would refresh these springs.

For about two miles after emerging from the Masulai defile, the torrent is wider and the roadway better, but within 1½ miles of Mayderta, the former becomes so steep

Bad road commences within 1½ miles of Mayderta. and rugged that the roadway leaves its bed and ascends by a

Commencement of hill side ascent to Tekoonda. steep rocky path to Mayderta, from whence the mountain side is still followed to the Dinda plain at the head of the Huddas

Head of pass on the Dinda plain. pass.

The Deyrea Amba, a high ridge of white sandstone with a precipitous summit, crowns the westward side of the pass at this point. It is a residence of the Shohos, but has no water on it. It is not inhabited at present, the Shohos having taken their cattle to the low country for grazing.

Deyrea Amba.

I may here mention, that during my scrambles amongst the mountains I have come upon many empty villages belonging to Shohos and Rasunimos, who, I have been told, only reside in them during the highland rains, on the termination of which, they drive their cattle to the plains of Sambar on the coast for agricultural and grazing purposes.

This will account for the almost total absence of grass on easily accessible parts of the hills at the present time. Amongst the well wooded mountains the remains of the crop are traced, but nothing more, and we have been much disappointed at not finding more grass than we have done, on approaching the highlands at Tekoonda.

Want of grass between Ulleelai, Mahio, and Tekoonda.

Mayderto, which we had pitched on as our halting place, from whence to reconnoitre Tekoonda and its vicinity, has no place for encampment. It is, in fact, nothing but a narrow rugged torrent bed, with a few yards of tolerably clear and sloping hill side on the left bank, under Amba Deyrea. This, however, was of no consequence, compared to the difficulty we experienced for want of water.

Before leaving Mahio, doubts had arisen regarding the supply of water at Mayderto, as well as onward from that to Tekoonda, and we now verified the accounts then received.

Want of water at Mayderto.

About 200 yards up the precipitous bed of the Huddas, we found two small pools of stagnant rain water, the one undrinkable except by animals, the other drinkable, but with an unpleasant taste; a further examination of the bed of the torrent, nearly to its head, revealed to us a similar state of things, viz., a few pools of stagnant rain water, some barely drinkable, others not.

Only water supply found.

The Shûm of Tekoonda, who had come to meet us on our march from Mahio to Mayderto, confirmed this intelligence, and added that, except at the site of the "King's Camp," within a mile of his village, we should find no water sufficient for a large number of men and cattle.

It being thus doubtful how long the small supply at Mayderto would last our detachment, we determined to push on at once with a few mules and followers, carrying our rifles, to reconnoitre.

This is called a caravan route, and is used by laden mules and asses.

Dinda plain, on the highlands, 6,772 feet above sea level.

We accordingly left Mayderto at 1 p.m., and, after climbing, partly on foot and partly on mules, some six or seven very steep and rugged ascents, each of which was in its turn succeeded by a short steep descent, we reached the Dinda plain, at the head of the Huddas pass, by 2.35 p.m.

Saturday, 16th November.—We were now fairly on the Abyssinian highlands, within little more than three miles of the site of the "King's Camp," and about four of Tekoonda village. We therefore pressed across the plain, which, in a southerly direction, is about a mile long, and three-quarters wide, from east to west; after which we entered upon a tract of stiff, undulating, thinly wooded country, intersected by two deep rocky ravines, the roads into and out of which were almost as bad as the Mayderto and Dinda Ghât we had left behind. At length, at three miles one furlong from the northern watershed, we reached the springs and streams at the north end of the "King's Camp," and proceeded to take bearings.

Dinda plain.

Stiff undulating country.

Deep ravines.

We passed the Gurbanoba waterfall and torrent to the westward, at about two furlongs from the site of the "King's Camp."

The Camp site appeared to be a tract of fine meadow land, covered in the centre with standing barley stubble, and on the banks of the watercourse with short turf, a good deal scorched by the sun. At the south-west end of this plain, the village of Tekoonda, situated on a low hill, bore 15° S.W., about a mile distant. Low hills bounded the plain at that end and on either side, closing it in as far as the opening from the north by which we entered. It is a position that could be easily defended.

There were two separate sources of water, one from a spring at the north end of the meadow land, and one to the westward, which, after flowing northward for a short distance, falls over a precipice, into a torrent bed, about 100 to 150 feet below. This torrent is said to be the Gurbanoba, which we passed early in this day's march; the water does not flow far on the surface, but there is an abundant supply from this spring.

Water of the "King's Camp."

Supply of the Gurbanoba torrent, flowing in a northerly direction.

Supply from a spring in a watercourse on the site of the Camp flows into the Gurbanoba.

It was now nearly 4 p.m., and, as we had to regain our encampment at Mayderto before dark, we hastened back, and fortunately descended the last declivity in good time.

Eastward of our camp at Mayderto we had observed, in the morning, a range of mountains, very conspicuous, from their being capped with elevated tables of white sandstone. The Shûm of Tekoonda having assured us that an extensive view, landward and seaward, could be opened out to us from two of the highest peaks of this range, we determined to remain at Mayderto one day, for the purpose of visiting them, and taking important compass bearings.

Koheito range, white and red sandstone.

First peak, Ussawut, on the Atshum plateau, near some ruins, supposed to be those of a small chapel, 7,711 feet above the sea.

Second peak, Tsaro, the higher of the two, 7,974 feet, or about 8,000 feet above the sea.

The following results of the survey of the Mayderto and Dinda Ghât will show roughly the steepness of that ascent.

	M.	F.	Yds.
Total length of Ghât, from Mayderto to the Dinda plain, on the highlands	2	5	152
Deduct small ascents and descents, in good undulating ground	1	1	0
Balance	1	4	152

The total height by aneroid, from Mayderto to the Dinda plain, was 1,477 feet, which was surmounted in less than the 1 mile 4 furlongs 152 yards above referred to, because, after climbing to a peak, the pathway often descended 20 or 30 feet before rising to the next height. The average rate of ascent, however, which the total height and total length give is 1 in 5½.

In many parts, as mentioned in the body of this report, there are slopes of 1 in 2 and 3.

carrying regulation loads of 200 and 400 lbs.; and I feel sure that, if the former are not altered, a great loss of baggage animals will be the result.

The eastern slopes of Amba Deyrea afford the means of avoiding a good deal of the worst part of the ghât under reference, there being gravelly soil on that side. In fact, the first part of the present so called road is so narrow, being only a foot to 18 inches broad, that the labour of widening such a path and removing the stones with which it is covered would be greater, I think, than cutting a new line six or eight feet broad, with easier slopes of 1 in 8 and 10.

Before the last ascent of 96 yards long occurs, there is a mile of beautifully wooded undulating ground, that is perfectly good if cleared of jungle and stones in one or two parts. Fine juniper and bair trees, corenda bushes, and a great variety of flourishing shrubs adorn this part.

Our route to the Koheito range lay eastward across the Dinda plain for about half a mile. It then crossed a low spur of the hills bounding the plain on that side, and fell into a deep ravine at the foot of Koheito.

The soil of the Dinda plain appeared to be clayey, mixed with stones and gravel. It nevertheless is cultivated during the rains. This year the locusts destroyed the crop, of which not a vestige remained when we passed it.

The ravine at the foot of Koheito was said to have water in it, but on examination it was found to be in the same condition as the bed of the Huddas pass from Mayderto up.

From the ravine we began to ascend Koheito, at first on mules, but afterwards on foot, by a wider, but just as steep and rugged a path as the Mayderto and Dinda one. We passed through a thick forest of fine juniper trees, and reached peak Assawut from the foot of the mountain in 40 minutes.

View from the elevated sandstone table of Ussawut, on the Suera, Senafé, the valley of the Mareb, and the steep precipitous cliffs of the western watershed for a considerable distance.

This was south-west of Tekoonda.

After completing our survey from this point, we descended to the plain which is called Atshum, and breakfasted.

We then visited the ruins, which appear to have been a chapel, and from them we passed across the Atshum plain towards the peak Tsaro, further north-east.

This plain is an extensive sandstone plateau, generally speaking covered with a good coating of soil, but furrowed down its centre from north to south-west by a main water channel, which receives numberless tributaries on both banks. It was well wooded with fine juniper trees and shrubs in many parts.

Water there was none, except what was found here and there lodged in the cavities of the rocks, the remnant of the last rains; and, judging from the disturbed state of the strata from volcanic action, they would not retain water in any quantity except during the rains.

It is worthy of note that the Koheito plateau is directly above the part of the Koomaylo pass where there is a want of water.

The plateau was not inhabited, though, as before mentioned with reference to other parts, we saw vacant huts, the owners having taken their cattle to the plains of the sea coast.

From Tsaro peak we looked down upon the open space selected a few days previously for our well-digging operations.

This may partly account for the large number of men and cattle we had seen travelling to the plains by the Huddas and Koomaylo passes in October.

During the rains there must be fine pasturage on this plain. At present, many of the watercourses have a fine short turf in them, but no long grass.

In fact, the parts of the northern and eastern watershed of Abyssinia that we have visited seem to be almost deserted at present.

It occupied nearly an hour to cross to the Tsaro peak from the western side of Atshum; when reached, however, all our labour was more than repaid by the magnificent scene opened out to us. Tsaro is the highest point of the mountains that flank the Koomaylo pass to the westward in this vicinity. It is situated near the junction of the Undul torrent with Navaguddy, directly above the spot where we are digging for water half way between the Sooro and Rayraguddy streams. It commands at once a panoramic

(4664.)

view of the whole country from the sea at Annesley Bay, bearing 43° north-east, Mount Suera, Senafé, Adowa, to the bluff rock named Tedrer, on the Mareb, bearing $74^{\circ} 30'$ south-west.

The ships in Annesley Bay were clearly seen through a binocular telescope, and thus an invaluable opportunity was afforded of fixing the position of Senafé, Tekoonda, and other important points.

But the most interesting and wonderful sight of all was, I think, to look down upon the sea of mountains through which the Koomaylo and Huddas torrents have, in the lapse of ages, forced their way to the sea.

These stupendous masses, rising from either bank of these torrents, some of them to a height exceeding that at which we stood, and covering an area of about 2,000 square miles, presented a view which, without exaggeration, may be said to approach the perfection of Alpine scenery.

We entertain hopes that the magnificent and extensive views obtainable from Tsaro may soon form the subject of a series of photographs, which can alone convey an adequate idea of the scene which I have attempted to describe.

In order to reach Mayderto again before dark, we were obliged to commence our return march at 1.45 p.m., which enabled us to arrive at our tents soon after 5 p.m.

Monday, 18th November.—At 7 p.m. we had a smart shower of rain. In order to save time, and return as quickly as possible, we did not halt at Mahio. A little more rain to-day than last evening at Mayderto.

Tuesday, 19th November.—Passed Tubbo, two miles, and bivouacked on our old ground, under the rocks of Illaleea. Rain fell towards sunset, but very little.

Wednesday, 20th November.—Found signs of a little rain as far down as Humhunmo, but none in the plains, which are as hot and dusty as when we left a fortnight ago. On arrival at Uddoda found that the epidemic amongst the Cavalry horses was on the increase, several having died since we left; learnt also that one of my own horses had died at Koomaylo, also that at Sooro horses and mules had died of it. M. Munzinger, who has great experience

Thursday, 21st November.—Koomaylo, 7 miles. and states that a year or two ago an Egyptian detachment of Cavalry at Arraphalé lost 120 out of 150 horses from this fearfully fatal disease. It does not affect the horses on the highlands. Having during this reconnaissance had an opportunity of examining both the Koomaylo and Huddas lines, and obtained the means of offering an opinion as to which of the two is best calculated to promote the object of an immediate advance to Antalo *en route* to Southern Abyssinia, I would respectfully observe as follows:—

1st.—As to directness, the Koomaylo line to Senafé has the advantage over the Huddas one by nearly 20 miles, the distance of each being as follows:—

Koomaylo Line.

	Miles.
Mulkutto to Koomaylo	13
Koomaylo to Lower Sooro	8
Lower to Upper Sooro	4
Upper Sooro to wells being dug near the Undul torrent	14½
Undul to Rayraguddy	14
Rayraguddy to Senafé	9
Total to Senafé	62½

Huddas Line.

Mulkutto to Koomaylo	13
Koomaylo to Uddoda	7
Uddoda to Illaleea	11
Illaleea to head of Deema stream	4½
Deema to Tubbo	7
Tubbo to Mahio	8
Mahio to Mayderto	9
Mayderto up the Ghât to King's Camp	5
King's Camp to Senafé	16*

Total to Senafé 81½

Tekoonda.
* This is said by some to be 18 or 20 miles.

2d. As regards gradient, the Koomaylo pass is very easy throughout, and has no such steep ascent as that occurring between Mayderto and the plain at the head of the Huddas pass.

3d. With respect to the present state of the roadways of each, and the means of improving them so as to be practicable for a field battery within a month or six weeks from the present time, Colonels Merewether and Wilkins and myself are of opinion that the obstacles of the Senafé line are much less than those of the Huddas route.

The main difficulties of the former are concentrated at certain points of the Sooro defile, a distance of four miles, and at certain points of the last march to Senafé, a distance of nine miles; whereas, on the Huddas route, from Uddoda to the head of the Deema stream, a distance of 15 miles, and again from Mayderto to the King's Camp at Tekoonda, a distance of nearly six miles, with one ascent of 1,477 feet, and others included in that distance, an immense amount of labour requiring time to execute, would have to be expended to make the line passable for a field battery with its ordinary carriages and waggon.

16 or, according to some, 18 or 20 miles across a stiff country from Tekoonda to Senafé.

distance of only three miles, yet in that space having four steep and rugged ascents and descents to surmount.

Water on both lines.

None between Mahio and the King's Camp.

Mahio and the King's camp at Tekoonda, a distance of 15 miles 1 furlong (in which, as just stated, an almost impassable ghât 1,477 feet high is included), leaves no room for doubt, in our opinion, that the march of 28 miles from the flowing stream of Upper Sooro to the flowing stream of Rayraguddy, by a good level road, is preferable to the 15 waterless and rugged miles of the Huddas line just referred to.

Difficulty of making the Dinda Ghât for want of water.

these men with water near their work for even two or three days, far less weeks.

An inexhaustible supply of water at the bad parts of the Senafé line.

beside their work.

We did not visit the highlands at Senafé as we did those of Tekoonda, but there is a King's camp at the former as well as the latter, with an abundant supply of water.

Water at Senafé itself.

5thly.—As regards forage. In proportion as we approached the high lands at Senafé, we found forage to increase; not so with respect to Tekoonda, where, for the reasons already stated, there is none to speak of.

No doubt forage is to be had inland from the "King's camp" at Tekoonda, but as far as the Huddas pass itself, compared to the Koomaylo, is concerned, the latter (probably from being unused by caravans), has more forage as you approach the highlands than the former. This is a point of great importance, considering the difficulty and expense of carrying forage to such a distance.

In point, therefore, of directness, gradients, ease of construction, water, and forage, I would submit that the Koomaylo is by far the more preferable line of the two; and taking into consideration the advanced state of the season, and the advisability of our fixing upon Post No. 2 without further delay, we have arrived at the conclusion that it should be established at Senafé, and that all our resources of men and transport should be applied to make the Koomaylo route practicable as soon as possible for a field battery, with its carriages and waggons. Such a road would at the same time pave the way for all pack transport animals, including elephants, and admit of European troops being removed from the great heat of the plains to the fine climate of Senafé without endangering their health, or the loss of more horses or mules by detention in the plains.

A Commissariat Depôt has already been formed at Koomaylo, the outpost at the foot of that pass. It now remains to establish a second at Upper Sooro, 12 miles in advance, where the left wing, 10th Native Infantry, and Mountain Train are already stationed.

Commissariat and other depôts on the Koomaylo line.

If water be found at the junction of the Undul torrent with the Navaguddy, 14½ miles higher up the pass, a third depôt might be required there, and a fourth at either Rayraguddy, 14 miles, or at Senafé itself, nine miles beyond it.

In consequence of this information, obtained by our reconnoissance since the 4th instant, Colonel Merewether has arranged that, until the Koomaylo line be practicable for artillery, and stocked with supplies for all arms, no operations of a similar kind shall be undertaken on the Huddas line above Uddoda, because, even were it possible to employ a large number of Pioneers and Sappers on the ghât ground at the head of that pass, a considerable time must elapse before it could be ready for the passage of Cavalry and Infantry, with baggage animals carrying regulation loads.

Thus it is deemed to be of the last importance to have one really good line practicable for all arms as soon as possible, rather than two barely practicable and badly stocked ones, by each of which prompt access to the highlands would be difficult and tardy.

The occupation of Tekoonda by a small force may eventually be necessary for strategical reasons, because the heights of Koheito at Tsaro and other places on the Atshum plateau command the Koomaylo pass by the Mudhullo and Undul torrents, and other routes as yet unknown to us; this contingency, however, is not, I submit, a pressing one at present, its urgency or otherwise being dependent upon our future relations with Kassai, the recent conqueror of Tigré.

See Journal, from 1st to 12th November 1867.

The plans contain the surveys of the Koomaylo and Huddas lines, referred to in my journal of the 1st to 12th instant, and this now forwarded from 13th to 21st idem.

Friday, 22d November.—I last evening had an opportunity of witnessing the very satisfactory progress made by the Head Quarter Wing, 10th Native Infantry, under Colonel Mulkutto. Field, in the most useful and necessary operations of clearing encamping ground for European troops and lines of road.

At Koomaylo a considerable area has been prepared for an European Infantry regiment and a field battery, in addition to what is required for a Native Infantry regiment and Commissariat Depôt.

Thick baubool jungle has been cleared away, and the stumps burnt from the roots. Stony tracts have been levelled and cleared of large and small stones, and now afford as good ground for encampment as could be desired.

Four miles of the road from Koomaylo to Mulkutto, lined out by Lieutenant De Thoren, through bad thorny and stony jungle, has been cleared and levelled to a width of 20 feet by the men of the Right Wing, 10th Native Infantry, under Captain Durand and Lieutenant De Thoren.

Major Pierce, the Wing Officer, assisted by Lieutenant Blowers, has cleared an excellent road, 20 feet wide, up the first four miles of the Koomaylo pass, and that road which, a few days back, was traversed with some difficulty in an hour and a half, may now be passed with ease in half an hour.

All these roads are good for wheeled carriages, and the rapidity with which thorny bushes and huge masses of rock and boulders have been removed from them is as surprising as the results are satisfactory.

Part of this is very heavy and sandy. The line of tramway runs near it.

Major Baigrie has lined out the first nine miles from Mulkutto to meet the Koomaylo line. He has cleared some six or seven of this with tent Lascars, no other labour being available.

So soon as Colonel Field's wing can be relieved at Koomaylo, he will move up to Lower Sooro, and complete the remaining four miles of Major Pierce's line from Koomaylo to that place.

I mention these particulars because I feel assured that it will be most gratifying to His Excellency to learn with what an excellent spirit of zeal and energy the Officers and men named have undertaken these most important works. Such a manner of meeting the physical obstacles that oppose the easy progress of our troops and stores from the sea to the highlands will soon give us a road practicable for wheeled carriages to Senafé.

The Aden Company of Sappers under Lieutenant Jopp, R.E., will continue to be employed at the Sooro defile, where we trust they may soon be joined by the remainder of the Sappers and Pioneers of the expeditionary force.

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN to accompany Colonel PHAYRE's Report on the Senafé and Tekoonda routes.

A. SENAFE ROUTE.

Date.	Halting Place.	Height above the Sea.	Maximum Temperature.	Minimum temperature.	Range.	Observations.
1867.						
Nov. 4th	Koomaylo - -	418	—	69° 5	—	{ Day warm and dry, sea breeze in afternoon, night cool, slight dew.
" 5th	Middle Sooro -	1,110	87°	71°	16°	{ Sheltered by high rocky cliffs, pleasant climate, very slight dew.
" 6th	Barut Geddee -	2,621	88°	—	—	{ Left same evening.
" "	Bivouac - -	—	—	55°	—	{ Night bitterly cold.
" 7th	Raraguddy - -	5,288	75°	51°	24°	{ Cool during the day in the shade, sun powerful; evening, night, and early morning very cold, heavy dew.
" 9th	Sonachte - -	3,152	89°	51°	38°	{ Night very pleasant, slight dew.
" 10th	Middle Sooro -	1,110	88°	72°	16°	{ Slight dew.
" 11th	Koomaylo - -	418	99°	64°	35°	{ Weather cooler, maximum in tents lately 102°, slight dew.

B. TEKOONDA ROUTE.

Date.	Halting Place.	Height above the Sea.	Maximum Tempera- ture.	Minimum Tempera- ture.	Range.	Observations.
1867.						
Nov. 12th	Uddoda - -	480	97°	71°	26°	{ Day warm and dry, sea breeze about noon ; evening, morning and night cool, moderate dew.
,, 13th	Illaleea - -	1,377	85°	75°	10°	{ Sheltered by high overhanging rocks, no dew.
,, 14th	Tubbo - -	2,740	87° 5	65°	22° 5	{ Day pleasant, night cool, moderate dew.
,, 15th	Mahio - -	3,510	78°	62°	16°	{ Do. Do.
,, 16th	{ Mayderto - -	5,223	79°	49°	30°	{ Mornings, evenings, and nights cold, heavy dew, rain evening of 17th ; thunder and lightning.
,, 17th						{ Thunder shower in afternoon, heavy dew.
,, 18th	Ulleelai - -	—	82°	59°	23°	{ Thunder shower in the evening, night warm, very slight dew.
,, 19th	Illaleea - -	1,377	84°	70°	14°	{ Same remark as on 12th.
,, 20th	Uddoda - -	480	57°	70°	25°	

Camp Mulkutto, 22d November 1867.

W. T. MARTIN, M.D.
Staff Assistant Surgeon.

Koomaylo, 24th November 1867.—Having come to the decision regarding the Senafé route, as reported in my journal of 13th to 22d October, our attention is now turned to the very important subject of the occupation of Post No. 2, and the establishment of a chain of depôts of supply connecting it with Post No. 1.

Want of troops in support of an advance to the highlands, and want of equipments and attendants for hundreds of baggage animals, now begin seriously to clog our preparations for the coming forces. Hundreds of fine mules are landed from the ships without even a rope to tie them up with, far less any equipments, and there being no muleteers to secure them, they wander about the dry dusty plain in quest of water and forage, and it is apprehended that a great number will be lost.

Want of camel men and equipments. Camels equipments and attendants are equally wanting for the hundreds of camels that have been landed.

Numbers of transport animals have died.

The few Transport Corps Officers present do their best, and work the whole day in the sun, but without Non-commissioned Officers and men to tie up, water, and feed these animals they are helpless, and thus for want of the commonest organization of transport *personnel* and material, hundreds of baggage animals cannot be used to clear the beach of stores which ought long ere this to have been *en route* to the depôts.

Neither can they be sent even to the Uddoda and Weah streams, 15 miles distant, simply because there are no muleteers to take charge of them. Had we men and head ropes, we could send them with grain and forage to those rivers, and let them remain there till the arrival of their saddles.

Rain has now held off longer than usual, nevertheless, European troops are on the eve of arrival, for whom provision must be made in the direction of the highlands.

If we remain in the plains we shall lose half our cattle, and equally if we detain our European troops here their health will infallibly suffer.

After full consideration of all these circumstances, I addressed the following memorandum to Colonel Merewether, C.B.

Memorandum by the Quartermaster-General of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force submitted for the consideration of Colonel MEREWETHER, C.B., commanding the Reconnoitring Party, Political Agent, &c.

Camp Koomaylo, 24th November 1867.

Referring to the intelligence received from Bombay by yesterday's mail, to the effect that the Sinde Brigade and other troops of the Abyssinian expeditionary force may be expected to arrive at Post No. 1, Annesley Bay, at any moment, and that within three weeks, or thereabouts, of the present time, the greater part of the force, amounting to several thousand men and followers, will either be actually arriving at, or *en route* to, Annesley Bay, the Quartermaster-General has the honour to submit, for Colonel Merewether's consideration, the following observations, pointing to the absolute necessity which has been forced upon us by circumstances noted below, of pushing forward a reconnoissance with the advance brigade, as per margin, to Senafé, or any suitable position in its vicinity, for Post No. 2.

G/14, R. A.
Her Majesty's 33d Foot.
Belooch Battalion.
Sappers and Miners, &c.

Note.—I since learnt that these troops had been detained in Sinde, and may not arrive before 5th or 6th December.

Aden Company of Sappers.
Mountain Train.
3d Regiment Light Cavalry.
10th Regiment, Native Infantry.
under command of Colonel Field, commanding the advanced brigade.

The Quartermaster-General would commence by briefly reviewing the circumstances in which we are now placed at Post No. 1, and its outposts of Uddoda or Weah River and Koomaylo.

Contrary to expectation, the lowland rains have not commenced up to the present time, consequently there is no water at Post No. 1, excepting what is condensed on board ship and issued to the few troops and animals at that place.

Want of water and forage at Mulkutto. Neither is there any forage except what we have imported from India or Egypt.

The consequence is that we have been obliged to station our Cavalry and Infantry at the nearest watering places where the water supply is sufficient for them, but to which their food and forage has to be carried from Post No. 1.

Uddoda - - - 15 miles.
Koomaylo - - - 13 "
Upper Sooro - - - 25 "
The Commissariat Department has experienced great difficulty in maintaining this supply for even the small strength of the advanced brigade, &c., and it is to be feared that a great number of our transport mules have suffered seriously from the hard work of going to and returning from these outposts.

Cavalry have lost nearly 100 horses.
Number of mules not known, but the number dead and strayed for want of mule-teers is considerable.

Superadded to this an epidemic called the "African glanders," which is said to be indigenous to the low country from November to January, has carried off a large number of Cavalry horses and transport animals, the results of which, should the epidemic continue, may be most serious.

We have learnt from our recent tour of reconnoissance that there is no amount of forage to speak of short of the highlands at Senafé, and were rain to fall now it would be a month before an adequate supply could be obtainable.

In the interim, several thousand fighting men, followers, and cattle will arrive at Mulkutto. There they cannot stay. At the outposts we could hardly supply them, even were it advisable to try the dangerous experiment of detaining them in the plains.

The only remedy, therefore, for the present and prospective difficulties in which we are placed appears to me to be an immediate advance on Senafé with the troops named, so as to open out fresh sources of supply in respect to water, forage, and cattle from that centre.

This would relieve the pressure at Mulkutto and its outposts, pave the way for the columns advancing from Bombay and Calcutta, and enable us to complete our reconnoissance so as to decide the exact site of Post No. 2 on the Senafé highlands, and permanently occupy it.

Our experience of the lowlands for the last six weeks has, I submit, shown us, that we cannot possibly subsist a large force there longer than a few days, even in the comparatively advantageous part comprised within the limits of Post No. 1 and its outposts.

Neither can we hope to touch, far less develop, Abyssinian resources without appearing on the highlands in some force.

For these urgent reasons, the Quartermaster-General would earnestly recommend for Colonel Merewether's favourable consideration, that the advanced brigade be put in movement, en route to Senafé in as light marching order as possible. The same Officers of the reconnoitring staff as before to join the advance at Rayraguddy.

The order of movement recommended is as follows:—

Men and followers to carry three days' provisions with them from Upper Sooro. No hay to be carried for any troops beyond that point.

Seven days' complete supply of food for men and animals (with the exception noted) to accompany the force from Sooro under a good Commissariat establishment, in charge of a Commissioned Officer, who would be able to arrange with the Natives of Abyssinia for supplies of all kinds on a large scale.

Note.—M. Munzinger, on the 8th December, entered into final arrangements with about 20 Chiefs of the tribes inhabiting the Koomaylo and Huddas passes, to protect those lines from plunderers and to carry our Commissariat stores to the highlands.

Ten days' further supply for the brigade to be sent up through the agency of the Chiefs of the tribes on the Koomaylo pass route if possible.

The left wing 10th Native Infantry, Mountain Battery, and company of Sappers now at Upper Sooro to march on Rayraguddy on the evening of Thursday, 28th instant, bivouac half way for three or four hours, and proceed to Rayraguddy stream, on Friday 29th.

Head quarter wing, 10th Native Infantry, to leave one Company at Koomaylo till relieved by the Belooch Battalion; the rest to march from Koomaylo to Upper Sooro on the morning of Thursday, 28th instant, and onward as may be hereafter ordered.

3rd Light Cavalry to march on Koomaylo on 28th instant leaving one troop at Uddoda till relieved.

On the 29th idem, this regiment would move to Upper Sooro, and there halt for orders.

One rowtie and two mules for its carriage allowed to every Commanding Officer and Head of Department.

Two mules for private baggage.

One rowtie and two mules for every two Officers not in command.

One mule for the baggage of each Officer just named.

All Officers to be entitled to Commissariat rations.

R. PHAYRE, Lieut-Colonel,
Quartermaster-General.

Note.—Since writing this memorandum, I learnt that the departure of the Sinde Brigade had been delayed longer than I had information of, and even at this date, we scarcely know when it will arrive in consequence of our letters despatched in one steamer from Bombay, having been carried to Suez instead of having been delivered at Aden.

Colonel Merewether having expressed his concurrence in the above memorandum, the following letter was addressed to Colonel Field commanding the advanced brigade.

The Quartermaster-General of the Army to Colonel Field, commanding Advanced Brigade, Koomayloo.
Sir, Mulkutto, Nov. 26th 1867.

Colonel Merewether, commanding the Reconnoitring Force and Political Agent in Abyssinia, being desirous of moving the brigade under your command to Senafé, in support of a reconnaissance which he purposes making of the highlands in that neighbourhood, I am desired to invite your cooperation in carrying out the following movements.

Post No. 2 has to be established at or near Senafé as soon as possible, in order that Abyssinian sources of supply in respect to forage, grain, slaughter cattle, &c., may be opened out to us.

	Miles.	
1st at Koomaylo	13	A chain of depôts of supply between Post No. 1 and Post No. 2,
2d Upper Sooro	12	has also to be established at the stages named in the margin.
3d Rayraguddy	28½	Measures are now in progress to obtain water between Nos. 2 and
4th Senafé	9	3, which if successful will halve the 28 mile march, but at present,

troops must leave Upper Sooro in the afternoon, bivouac half way for three or four hours at a place that the guides will be informed of, and then march to Rayraguddy the following morning.

Colonel Merewether has arranged with the Assistant Commissary-General, that 10 days' rations shall accompany the brigade to Senafé, and that full rations will be served out at each of the stages above noted, with the exception of hay, which will not be carried for any animals beyond Upper Sooro. There is plenty of grass on the mountain slopes near Rayraguddy, though it is high up and can only be reached by labour. One of the first results, however, of our presence on the highlands, will it is hoped, be the re-establishment of relations with Abyssinian dealers who will probably supply both Senafé and Rayraguddy.

Important business will detain Colonel Merewether at Mulkutto till either the 1st or 2d proximo, after which he purposes moving to Rayraguddy with the Officers of the reconnoitring force, so as to lead the advance to the highlands on the 4th or 5th idem, as may be hereafter determined.

In the meantime, it is matter of great importance, in order to make our communications with Post No. 1 easy, that the remaining four miles of Major Pierce's road from Koomaylo to Lower Sooro should be completed, if possible, before you proceed to Senafé, and, if convenient, Colonel Merewether would suggest your leaving a company at Koomaylo for a day or two, for the protection of the depôt there (until it can be relieved by the detachment, Marine Battalion, under Lieutenant Becke, at Uddoda), and marching with the remainder of the head quarters wing, 10th Native Infantry, to Lower Sooro either to-morrow or next morning (28th instant) as may appear to you to be best.

The whole of the left wing, except one company, might also be moved down to Lower Sooro to meet you, and thus your working parties would be very strong.

Under this arrangement, if the four miles under reference could be completed to a width of 12 feet by the 30th instant, you could probably move to Upper Sooro on the 1st December.

At Upper Sooro, one company must remain for the protection of the depôt till relieved by the Belooch Battalion, and on the afternoon of the 2d December you will perhaps be able to march with the troops, as per margin, on Rayraguddy.

Mountain Train.

A company of Sappers from Mulkutto.

Head Quarters, and 7 companies, 10th Native Infantry.

The mode of moving the 3d Light Cavalry would be as follows:—

One troop to relieve the detachment, Marine Battalion, at Uddoda, and to remain at that post for the protection of the stores until relieved by a company of the Belooch Battalion from Mulkutto. The sick horses to remain with this troop and to join regimental head quarters when relieved.

There being a number of dismounted men equal to a troop at Uddoda, this duty should devolve on them, and thus more sabres would take the field.

Lieutenant Becke will be ordered to march to Koomaylo with his detachment of the Marine Battalion as soon as possible, and to bring on the coolies in his employ so as to finish clearing the line to Uddoda whilst at Koomaylo. He could at the same time superintend the well digging at Koomaylo.

The Koomaylo company of the 10th Native Infantry, on being relieved by Lieutenant Becke, to join the head quarters of its regiment.

With the exception of the troop and sick horses above referred to, the remainder of the 3d Cavalry will march on Koomaylo, and Colonel Merewether would feel obliged by your issuing orders accordingly to the Officers concerned at Uddoda, Wah River, and Upper Sooro.

A copy of this letter will be left with the Officer in command at Mulkutto, with a request that detachments of the 1st Belooch Battalion may on arrival be sent—

One company to Uddoda.

„ „ Upper Sooro.

The remainder of the regiment to Koomaylo to stand fast there till further orders.

R. PHAYRE, Lieutenant-Colonel.

The following letter was also addressed to the Officer commanding the Sinde Brigade, with a view to reinforcements being sent on to Senafé as soon as possible:

Colonel MEREWETHER, C.B., Political Agent in Abyssinia, and commanding Reconnoitring Force, to the Officer commanding Sinde Brigade, or Senior Officer who may arrive at Mulkutto with it.

Sir, Mulkutto, 27th November 1867.

I have the honour to forward, for your information, copy of the Quartermaster-General's letter as per margin, containing the detailed arrangements for the movement of the advanced brigade, Abyssinian expeditionary force, to the highlands at Senafé.

Dated 26th November 1867.

I need scarcely dwell upon the paramount importance of your supporting the movement by detachments from the first European Infantry regiment that may land at Mulkutto.

G./14, Royal Artillery.
Her Majesty's 33d Foot.

Belooch Battalion.
3d Regiment, Sinde Horse.

According to our latest accounts, the Scinde Brigade, as per margin, should be the first to arrive, and, in such a case, I have the honour to

request that the following dispositions of it may be made without avoidable delay.

European Infantry. Two companies to Senafé in preference to any other troops.

Two companies of Her Majesty's 33d Foot, with full field service equipment, to be despatched to Senafé by a route that will be furnished by Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster-General, and under Commissariat arrangements that Major Mignon, Assistant Commissary-General, has been requested to make in anticipation of the arrival of European Infantry.

Three companies of the same regiment to Upper Sooro as soon after the above have marched as possible. These will move on to Senafé when Commissariat arrangements are complete.

33d Foot.

Head quarters and five companies to Koomaylo, to halt there till Commissariat arrangements admit of their being sent on to Senafé.

G./14, Royal Artillery.

The G./14 to move to Koomaylo in the first instance, and halt there for orders, but in case the water at Koomaylo should prove insufficient, the battery must be moved to Lower Sooro, pending the preparation of the road through the Sooro defile for Artillery.

The Belooch Battalion will be distributed as follows:—

One company at Uddoda, to relieve the detachment, 3d Light Cavalry.

" " Upper Sooro, to relieve a similar detachment, 10th Native Infantry.

" " Mulkutto, to relieve Marine Battalion detachment.

Belooch Battalion.

Head quarters and five companies at Koomaylo till the whole of the 33d has passed to the front at Senafé.

3d Sinde Horse.

Note.—This regiment being independent of Government transport, has since been ordered to the front on being landed.—R. P. 8th December.

Should the 3d Regiment, Sinde Horse, arrive before the above troops have passed on to Senafé, it will proceed to Uddoda, and halt there till further orders.

It will be understood from the above, that the movements of European Infantry noted are to have priority over every other, it being essentially necessary that troops of this arm should reach the highlands first, so as to reinforce as quickly as possible the troops already ordered there, and to save the men from the heat of the plains.

The road through the Sooro defile may not be ready for artillery for some time, therefore the G/14 must await orders at Koomaylo or Lower Sooro as noted.

The Belooch Battalion will be required on the highlands next in order to the 33d. The head quarter wing told off for Koomaylo might be moved as soon as it can be relieved by fresh arrivals, and its detachments follow when relieved in a similar way.

A sketch map of the country from Annesley Bay by the Huddas and Koomaylo lines to the highlands at Senafé and Tekoonda with useful notes, is attached to this letter, and Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster-General, will afford full information regarding, and superintend the movement, of the 33d Foot.

Other Corps will move under similar arrangements for the present, there being only one line of advance available, viz., to Senafé. The Huddas route cannot be cleared and provisioned for troops until our resources in men and transport have greatly increased.

Want of means to clear the Huddas line.

This was given by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilkins, R.E.

A memorandum relative to the disposal of the Sappers will be given separately.

I am, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER, Colonel,
Commanding Reconnoitring Force, and Political
Agent in Abyssinia.

The following Letter from this Department to the Officer commanding the troops at Mulkutto gives a full account of the march, &c., as far as Rayraguddy, which was reached on the 3d December:—

Colonel MEREWETHER, C.B., Political Agent in Abyssinia, and commanding Reconnoitring Force, to the Officer commanding Sinde Brigade, or Senior Officer who may arrive at Mulkutto with it.

Sir,

Camp Rayraguddy, December 5th, 1867.

In continuation of my letter and accompaniments, under date 27th ultimo, I have the honour

Mountain Train, under Major Marrett.
10th Regiment, N. I.
the whole under command of Colonel Field, commanding the advanced brigade.

to acquaint you that, on the 2d instant, at 3 p.m., I left Upper Sooro for Rayraguddy and Senafé with the troops as per margin, leaving the 3d Regiment, Light Cavalry, to follow from Upper Sooro the next afternoon.

2. We reached the wells which are being dug near the Undul torrent, a distance of 12 miles 2 furlongs, by 8.45 p.m., and then bivouacked till daylight the following morning, in consequence of the road between the wells and Rayraguddy, a distance of 15½ miles, being too rough to allow of troops travelling over it at night. At about 5.30 a.m. on the

To Undul Wells, 12 miles 2 furlongs.

Rayraguddy, 15½ miles.

3d instant the march was resumed, although the rear guard had not then reached the wells, having been detained through the weak enfeebled state of the mules and general inefficiency of the Land Transport Corps, for want of Officers and Non-commissioned Officers and men.

3. Rayraguddy was reached by the 10th Native Infantry a little before 1 p.m., the regiment having halted at the small watering place of Henderta about three-quarters of an hour, in addition to ordinary halts of 20 minutes after each hour at other parts of the road.

4. No Commissariat rations, except some grain for the mules, arrived at Rayraguddy that day (3d), and the rearguard only arrived at about noon yesterday, owing mainly to the same cause as before, viz., the inefficiency of the Transport Corps for want of Officers and men to attend to the mules *en route*, and the enfeebled condition of the latter, that has been brought about by the want of an establishment to feed and water them since their being landed at Annesley Bay up to the present time.

5. That the failure of the mules is solely attributable to the cause stated is proved by the fact that the mules sent from India with the reconnoitring force with a proper complement of attendants and equipments have not failed, on this or any other of the long and continuous marches which they have performed during the last two months, to carry the full regulation load of 200 lbs. without breaking down.

6. I regret to add that the Commissariat Department itself is also inefficient, owing to the want of Commissioned Officers and subordinate establishments, so that its ordinary duty of issuing rations is carried on with the greatest difficulty, whilst its higher and more important one of developing the resources of the country in advance, and thus providing for the future, has no representative.

7. I visited Senafé yesterday with the Quartermaster-General, and was glad to find the greater part of the road very good, the distance from Rayraguddy being about nine miles. I shall probably move there to-morrow with part of the 10th Native Infantry and the 3d Light Cavalry, if the latter, which it appears remained at Upper Sooro until yesterday afternoon, should reach this with transport animals able to move on.

Our experience of the last three days, as just described, obliges me to modify the requests contained in my letter of the 27th November, in the following particulars:—

1st. The road from the wells near Undul to Rayraguddy, a distance of $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles, must be cleared of stones and jungle to a width of 12 feet at least.

This will enable the troops to march over that ground at night, and thus save them from the heat of the sun, which (although the climate is cool and good) is hot and trying after 9 a.m.

I shall feel obliged, therefore, by your distributing the Belooch Battalion as soon after arrival as possible, as follows:—

Head quarters and three companies to Rayraguddy, with orders to clear a 12 foot wide road back towards the Undul wells.

1 company under an European Officer at the wells, with orders to clear a similar line towards Rayraguddy.

One company at Upper Sooro.

" " at Mulkutto.

" " at Uddoda.

" " at Koomaylo.

2dly. The depôts at Upper Sooro and Rayraguddy should each be stocked with six days' supplies for 500 Europeans, and efficient Commissariat, and transport establishments be posted at each.

As soon as I am in a position to send back mules to aid in these operations, I will do so; but to despatch them at present would be impossible, owing to their weak state and our own requirements.

3dly. With regard to the 33d Foot, I fear that the disposition of the regiment suggested in my letter under reference will not be possible for some days after its arrival. Until, therefore, proper Commissariat and Transport arrangements can be made for it, it should remain at Koomaylo, and, when feasible, be moved from thence in the order originally suggested.

The G. Battery, 14th Brigade, Royal Artillery, must remain at Koomaylo till further orders.

The 3d and 5th Companies of the 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, required to man the mountain battery brought from England by Captain Nolan, may be sent to the front in succession, after the 33d. In the interim, they should remain at Koomaylo or Mulkutto, as may appear to you to be best.

The 4th, "King's Own," Regiment should be disposed of as suggested with regard to the 33d, viz., remain at Koomaylo till it can be marched to the front by detachments.

The 3d and 28th Regiments should be landed, and sent to Uddoda, to await further orders.

I shall endeavour at once to enter into arrangements at Senafé to supply that and the Rayraguddy post with flour, gram, &c., and thus relieve the Commissariat and Transport establishments in the rear; the line of road between the latter and Senafé will be made practicable as soon as possible by Captain Newport's Company of Sappers and the 10th Native Infantry; and in a day or two I shall have the honour of communicating further to you on the subject of these measures, and the effect that they will have in furthering the general advance of the force; but it is quite clear that, until our Transport is placed on an efficient footing, by the arrival of equipments, Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and muleteers from Bombay, and our Commissariat has received a large addition of Officers and subordinates, the all-important advance to Post No. 2, at Senafé, cannot be carried out on a large scale.

Had these been sent a month ago, our fine mules would have been equal to any work, and the Sinde Brigade, with the exception of the G. 14, Royal Artillery, might by this time have made room in the lowlands for the 4th Foot and Native Corps accompanying it.

Whilst thus commenting on the inefficient state of the two principal Departments of supply of this force, I by no means impute blame to Major Mignon, his Officers, and men, or to the Transport Corps (4664.)

Officers. All have worked day and night to make up for the deficiencies noted above, and I attribute to their zealous exertions the accomplishment of what has been done in the way of a forward movement.

I have the honour to enclose, for your information, copies of two telegrams from Army Head Quarters, received last night, and beg the favour of your communicating their contents to the Assistant Commissary-General.

I have, &c.,
W. L. MEREWETHER, Colonel,
Commanding Reconnoitring Force, and Political Agent
in Abyssinia.

December 6th.—Having yesterday proceeded, with a company of 10th Native Infantry, under Major Pierce, and Captain Newport's company of Sappers, to the first bad part of the road, onward to Senafé, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, I encamped them near the fine body of water found there, and showed them where to commence work, and gave instructions that, on the following morning, they would precede the column, clearing and making passable the existing road as they went along. Soon after daylight I joined them again, with Colonel Wilkins; and it was most satisfactory to find that, by 10 a.m., the two bad places in the bed of the torrent, and the rough native road by which, after leaving the bed of the torrent, the Abyssinian highlands are gained, were made passable for our laden mules.

Route from head of Rayraguddy water to Senafé.

The mountain train, No. 1 Company of Sappers, and the 10th Native Infantry, marched into Senafé at 1 p.m., with a great part of the baggage. The whole of the latter closed up before 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 7th.—The 3d Light Cavalry marched into Senafé this day, soon after noon, having left Rayraguddy in the morning.

The route from Undul wells to Senafé is as follows.

This portion has to be cleared of stones and jungle. The gradient is good, but the road surface is at present very rough and jungly, and therefore trying to troops. The Belooch Battalion has been ordered up to clear it, but more troops will be required for the purpose; this shall be arranged for.

From Undul wells to the first commencement of water at Rayraguddy, 15 miles 3 furlongs 13 yards.

This is a defile narrower than that of Sooro, with the stream flowing through it. Its banks being lofty precipices, there is no room for encampment. Troops must, therefore, march to the head of the stream, one mile from its foot, where the 10th Native Infantry has cleared an encamping ground, and a place for a Commissariat dépôt. Further clearances must be made beyond the head of the water, on suitable ground. More than 500 fighting men should not, if possible, be at Rayraguddy at one time, owing to the narrowness of the defile where the only water supply is. The consequent difficulty of watering a large number of mules within its narrow limits is very great.

Although these animals of the advanced brigade had not been watered since leaving Upper Sooro, and had travelled 28 miles to Rayraguddy, and were extremely thirsty, they would not drink at the lower part of the stream, because the water had been muddied by troops and mules passing up its bed to the front. So that, in point of fact, until arrangements could be made to give them clear water, they were as badly off as amidst the scarcity at Mulkutto.

When, as in the case of these defiles, the stream itself is the only roadway, it is most difficult to manage this. It was effected, however, by Colonel Field and his Officers undertaking Transport Corps Officers' duties, and themselves arranging and superintending the watering of the animals.

The 10th Regiment also gave working parties to cut grass for them, which the Commissariat Department could not supply for want of establishments.

The difficulties described can only be avoided by marching the troops at once to the head of the water, and by constructing reservoirs at convenient places on the sides of the stream for the drinking water of men and animals, which will not be effected by passers by. Arrangements to this effect have been partly made by Major James, second in command 10th Native Infantry, and will be improved in course of time by other Commanding Officers.

The road up to this point lies in the torrent bed and is good, except at one or two places which have been made passable for mules by Major Pierce and Captain Newport.

From the head of the Rayraguddy stream to another watering place near the foot of the Senafé ghat, 3 miles, 5 furlongs, 180 yards.

On arriving, however, at this watering place, the torrent is precipitous and impassable. The native road therefore leaves it for about two furlongs and passes by a steep ascent and descent across a gravelly spur into it again. In one sense this is an advantage, because the water in the torrent bed remains clear and good, being undisturbed by men and animals passing through it. The steep slopes of the spur may be easily improved when a road for guns is made. In the interim the Sappers and 10th Native Infantry have cleared the road of stones and bushes and cut it wider in bad places.

Road crosses a steep spur; two furlongs.

From the above watering place to foot of Senafé Ghat, 1 mile, 2 furlongs, 80 yards.

The rise is 750 feet, the first and last half miles of comparatively easy gradient, the centre three-quarters of a mile or so, very steep and rugged. The whole was cleared of rough stones and bushes, and made passable for mules by No. 1 Company Sappers, and No. 1 Company 10th Native Infantry, under Major Pierce and Captain Newport in three or four hours, allowing of the mountain train. 10th Native Infantry, and the whole of the baggage to ascend with comparative ease.

From foot to top of Senafé Ghat, 1 mile, 3 furlongs, 105 yards.

The hills allow of an easy cart road being made up this part.

From top of Ghât, across an open plain of red and white sandstone to head of Senafé water, 1 mile 5 furlongs, 73 yards.

The road now crosses a fine open plain, which is covered with loose stones. On the removal of these, the line will be perfectly good for wheeled carriages.

Thus from Koomaylo to the foot of the Senafé Ghât, a distance of 46 miles, we have an unexceptionable gradient and the means of making a good road, the only really difficult part being the four miles from Lower to Upper Sooro.

The road from the Undul wells to Rayraguddy water and for the mile through that defile, in all 16½ miles, requires improvement as above remarked, but the work will not be heavy, and may be executed in a fortnight if adequate means are used.

Road from Undul wells to Rayraguddy encampment, 16½ miles.

December 8th.—Reports having been received that a number of dead mules and horses are lying on the road between Koomaylo and Senafé, the following memorandum was issued by the Deputy Quartermaster-General, and attached to each copy of the route ordered to be issued to General and other officers in command:—

Senafé, 8th September 1867.

The Deputy Quartermaster-General has the honour to bring prominently to the notice of General and other Officers commanding divisions, brigades, regiments, detachments and depôts, the serious danger to the health of the army that will result from their allowing dead mules and horses to decompose either near their posts and camps or on the roads approaching them.

Danger to health in these narrow passes from dead animals being allowed to remain to decompose.

Every Commanding Officer is earnestly requested to do his utmost to mitigate this evil by having all dead animals belonging to his division, brigade, or regimental camp burnt by camp followers as soon as possible.

An endeavour is being made through M. Munzinger, Assistant Political Agent to entertain Shobos and other tribes to burn the dead animals that may fall on the line of road between the posts of Koomaylo, Upper Sooro, Undul wells, Rayraguddy, and Senafé.

Separate arrangements for parts of the roads distant from depôts and camps.

At the posts themselves, however, and in their vicinity, should the senior Officer present have no camp followers available for the duty, he is empowered to hire men for the purpose of burning carcases, which is the only way of effectually disposing of them, it having been found lately that buried carcases, after a few days, emit as offensive a stench as if they were lying exposed.

Contingent bills on this account, if sent to the Deputy Quartermaster-general, will be passed and the money paid as soon as possible.

The Deputy Quartermaster-General has also the honour to invite especial attention to the subject of conservancy of camps within the Koomaylo or any other pass that may be used for the advance of the army.

All these lines of drainage partake of the same narrow and confined character, having very little space on their banks for the encampment of men and animals, which when halted must be kept clear of the torrent bed as a matter of safety.

Constant and unremitting care will also be necessary on the part of the Commanding Officers of each successive corps or detachment passing to the front to prevent the torrent bed from being used for latrine purposes.

Branch torrents or elevated spots on the hill sides afford the means of remedying this evil, which if permitted, will result in the defilement of the only water available for the troops and animals.

Field latrines on the mountains slopes or up branch torrents.

Sentries must be posted to ensure the fulfilment of these absolutely necessary precautions.

The head of the water, and any reservoir that has been constructed near it, must always be guarded by sentries with orders to prevent men washing, or animals being watered, within 20 or 30 yards of them down stream.

All litter and manure of mounted corps is to be burnt daily at every halting ground.

I have, &c.,

R. PHAYRE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Deputy Quartermaster-General,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

The Governor General of the Soudan to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER, C.B.

Sir,

Cairo, 21st November 1867.

I have the honour to answer the Despatch you have addressed to me on the 8th of past month, and which I received on the 18th instant. I do not know to what cause to attribute this delay of your Despatch, because as soon as I reached Cairo I acquainted the Viceroy with the difficulties of communication between Massowah and Suakin, and His Highness has ordered a postal service between Massowah and Suakin to be established to take place every 15 days by the means of steamers, the post between Suakin and Suez being already worked regularly every fortnight.

Concerning the boats necessary for the disembarkation of provisions, I have, when at Massowah and Suakin, given very strict orders to the Governors of those two towns, so that any boat available on this coast and over which we had authority, should be put at your disposal, so I hope before this these two functionaries will have put under your orders all the boats to be found in this sea.

Moreover, in order to anticipate any more want you might have for a greater number of boats than the existing ones, I brought the question before the Viceroy, who has promised to send, after few days, Nile boats to Suez, to be sent and placed at your disposition. It may be their arrival will be somewhat tardy, but let us keep to the old proverb, "Better late than never."

As to intelligence about the actual situation of telegraphic communication between Suakin and Cairo, which His Excellency the Governor of Bombay desired to have, I have to notify you that it is only a short time ago since the Government of His Highness has commenced this line between Suakin and Cairo across the interior of Sudan, touching Kassala, Khartum, and Dangola, &c., and if it were not for the extreme heat and the scarcity of water during the summer, and the great difficulty of transporting the necessary materials, this line would not have been delayed so much. For this reason, I cannot possibly tell now the day when this line, which will be very advantageous to the Government of His Highness, will be finished.

We expected to fill the place of this line by a regular service of steamers between Massowah, Suakin, and Suez.

I cannot terminate this without bringing to your notice that I have given the necessary orders to the three Colonels, Hassan Bey, Momtay Bey, and Abdel Hajat Bey, Governors of Massowah, Suakin, and Saca, to meet any want you may have as much as they can. It is useless for me telling you that you will find them always eager to put themselves at your disposal on the first demand made.

If my services at Cairo can be of any use to you, you may address to me only two words, and you will find me always ready and disposed to facilitate the service of the English expedition.

Before my starting for Sudan, it will be a duty for me to give you advice thereof, so as to let you know my address.

Receive, &c.

JAFFER PACHA,
The Governor General of Sudan.

Brigadier-General MEREWETHER, C.B., Resident, Aden, on special duty, Abyssinia, to His Excellency
JAFFER PACHA, Governor General of Soudan.

Sir,

Camp, Mulkutto, 1st January 1868.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt this day of your Excellency's letter of the 21st November, and to return you my warmest thanks for its contents, and for the ready manner in which you acceded to my several requests.

Since I wrote to your Excellency in October last, we have, thanks to the orders issued by you, and through other arrangements, been able to collect here a sufficiency of boats, and will not therefore require the Nile boats alluded to in your letter.

I shall have great pleasure in submitting to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay and His Excellency Sir R. Napier, Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian army, the very cordial manner in which your Excellency has offered and given your co-operation.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General,
Resident, Aden, on special duty,
Abyssinia.

Prince KASSA to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God. Letter sent from Dejasung Kassa, head of the Chiefs of Ethiopia, to Colonel Merewether, Chief of the Army. How are you? By the grace of Christos I am well. I am a man who has much work. I have not yet received the answer to the words I have sent you, and I like to have it soon. I have found a messenger bearing letters in my camp. Having asked him who he was, he told me that he is a messenger of the English. I have sent him on with a guide. If after this any messenger is to pass through Tigré, let him come to me; I will send him on, and give him safe conduct.

(L. s.) Written on the 16th Tehsat (25th of December).

Colonel W. L. MEREWETHER, C.B., Resident, Aden, on Special Duty, Abyssinia, to His Excellency
Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., Aden.

Sir,

Senafé, 18th December 1867.

In connexion with the subject of the convention entered into with the Chiefs, copy of which was forwarded to your Excellency a few days ago, I have the honour to submit the following observation on the tribes and their locality to which those Chiefs belong.

2. The tribes nearest the seaboard on the west side of Annesley Bay, and known under the general name of Shohos, are the Hasarotas and Rassamos. Of these the Hasarota is the largest, and is found at Zoola, Koomeylee, Addoda, Wah,* and throughout the hills between the Koomeylee route and the Huddas River, extending up to the former as far as where the Metello torrent road from Tekonda joins the Nabegeddee, about

* This is more properly "Oah," which means "water" in the language of the country.

10½ miles above Upper Soorro, and then under the Kohaito mountain to the foot of the ascent to Tekonda. There are four divisions of this tribe—

1. Assarkuree, Chief Hamed-deen.
2. Aseylezan " Moossa.
3. Taggereyto " Aboo Bekr.
4. Leylish " Adone.

Of these the two first occupy the hills on the right, north side of the Koomeylee route, the two last on the Huddas. They do not, however, remain permanently in any one particular spot, but change about as they please, and as need of forage for their cattle demands. In the cool season they, as well as most of the other tribes, descend into the plains with their cattle and cultivate a little here and there.

3. The Rassamo tribe occupy the plain and hills to the left, south of the Koomeylee route, and from the junction of the Undal torrent at Guinea Fowl Plain to Arafale at the bottom of Annesley Bay, next to them on the south again are the Lower Hasos, whose country extends to Ragoolay. The Rassamos have three subdivisions—

1. Nafee, Chief Ishmael.
2. Moossa, Chief Moossa.
3. Abdoolla, Chief Ali.

There is also another which formerly belonged to the Rassamos, but is now separated.

Selectnee, 400 spears.

Selectnee, Chief Shaik Mahomed.

From Metello junction to Senafé the whole of the Soerra mountain and the adjacent hills, as well as part of the plateau up to the district of Agame, is held by the Gasos, the Hasos being to the east and south-east of them. They partly belong to the lowland and partly to the highlands. They have no actual Chiefs, but heads of houses representing clans. Of these there are 5—

1. House of Sooliman.
2. " Abdoola.
3. " Hessan.
4. " Achmed.
5. " Yussuf.

The Gasos are a bolder set than the others, and it is generally said that their word, once given, may be implicitly trusted to. This is not so fully the case with the Rassamos, who have a worn name for faith. The common expression is, the Gaso is as a lion, the Rassamo as a panther. The Gasos, Rassamos, and Selectnee are also known under one generic name of the Manaferee. They were Christians formerly, but now are nearly all Mussulmans. They claim to be of Arab extraction, but it is not clearly established.

5. The above are the tribes with whom we are brought into contact on the Koomeylee and Huddas lines of route. They are all nomades, live chiefly on meat and milk, having large herds of horned cattle and flocks of sheep and goats, but very little grain. Such is the scarcity of this latter, that in all our travels through the hills we have had to supply it to the Chiefs and their followers who accompanied us; they could get none in their own country, and it was most thankfully received by them. They are all by habit robbers, nearly independent, owing little allegiance to any one, and from time immemorial have imposed their own terms on travellers and traders passing through their country. They foolishly increased their exactions so much that the road from Senafé to Zoolo, undoubtedly the best through the hills, has been almost entirely deserted for years past. The Huddas line from Tekonda to Arketo much the same, merchants taking the more difficult route through Hamozen and by Ailat Assus, &c., to Massowah.

6. Under the arrangement entered into with these Chiefs, they bind themselves down to restrain their people from molesting convoys, should anything be stolen to cause its restoration, and delivery up of the thief or thieves. They will also furnish a number of guides to conduct and accompany the convoys through the passes. Some of these will be placed at Mulkuttoo, and others to relieve them at Maiyen, the wells. They have also entered into a contract to bring supplies from Mulkuttoo to Senafé on their own cattle, receiving two dollars and a quarter for each bag safely delivered. This will be a great assistance.

7. As a general rule, the Shohos are arrant cowards. They are poorly armed with a spear about six feet long, a wretched sword, shield, and knife. They have no firearms amongst them, and dread them excessively. If a few men armed with light fusils or carbines were interspersed among the baggage and convoys, not a Shoho, or Abyssinian either, would ever dare come near them. They are exceedingly active, running up the hills with great speed, and hiding behind bushes or stones they watch for anything they think they may carry off without risk. The language they speak is called Shoho, and is quite distinct from Arabic, Tigre, Amharic, or any other. The Hasarotas, Rassamos, and Selectnee acknowledge to a certain extent the authority of the Egyptian Government, and they are under the general control of the Naib of Arkiko, acting under the Governor of Massowah, but strict enforcement has hitherto been avoided as much as possible. The Naib's brother was, about nine months ago, killed on the Senafé road near the Metello junction, when following up a band of Gaso plunderers, also all the men who were with him, but no steps were taken at the time by the Government of Massowah to punish the perpetrators.

8. It should be explained here that on the Koomeylee route, the torrent bears that name for eight miles after entering the hills; then comes the Soorro Pass, 4½ miles; then it is called the Nabee Geddee

for 10½ miles, till where the Metello torrent joins from Tekonda; above that point, and up to Senafé, it is designated Raha (not Raree) Geddee.

9. On the east side of Annesley Bay, in Bourri, are Afars, or Danakil, of the Harto or Dumkeita branch, to the south-east and south, the Harto or Dumkeita, Bellessna, Dahanula, &c., to the south-west the Bellessnas and Lower Hasos. All these freely acknowledge the power of the Egyptian Government. They are under one head, the young Chief of the Harto, who accompanied us to Ragooley.

I have, &c.,
W. L. MEREWETHER, Colonel,
Resident, Aden, on special duty, Abyssinia.

Colonel W. L. MEREWETHER, C.B., Resident, Aden, on special duty, Abyssinia, to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, K.C.B., G.C.S.I.

Sir,

Senafé, 19th December 1867.

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of translations of two letters received to-day from Prince Kassa, ruler of Tigré.

2. The bearer, Murcha Wurfée, informs me that Prince Kassa has ordered him to remain with me, and that he has sent an official to see that our wants are properly supplied and orders obeyed. Murcha further states that Prince Kassa verbally mentioned that he was quite aware that Her Majesty's Government had no desire for territorial acquisition in Abyssinia, that he fully appreciated the advantages a commercial treaty with England, as formerly proposed, would bring to his country, and that, after your Excellency's arrival, he hoped you would send some one to counsel him how he could best bring about and obtain the friendship of Her Majesty. He further spoke about a desire to despatch hereafter a mission to England. I, of course, have given no reply to this message, and the answer to his letters will be merely one of thanks for his cordial and ready assistance, and for the orders he has been good enough to issue.

3. The intelligence brought from Adowa is to the effect that Theodorus is said to have been forced by the opposition he met with, and the difficulty of taking on the mortar and his baggage, to retrace his steps to Debra Tabor; this return, if true, to the place he had burned, will tell heavily against him, and encourage his enemies. Prince Menelek is reported still to be close to Magdala, apparently waiting till assistance would give him easy entrance into that stronghold.

I have, &c.,
W. L. MEREWETHER, Colonel,
Resident, Aden, on special duty, Abyssinia.

Translation of a letter of DEJASMAJ CASSA, received on the 19th December 1867.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God. Letter sent by Dejasmaj Cassa, head of the Chiefs of Ethiopia, to Colonel Merewether, Chief of the British Army. Chief and army, how are you? Very well? Myself, by God's grace, I am well. I give over to you the grass, the wood, the water; Dejj Murdja will make it given to you. I will content you in all what is in my power, I will have proclaimed your proclamation. When General Sir R. Napier arrives, send me a man; myself, I will send a to be trusted man to assure our reciprocal relations, that is, that I may have faith in you, and you in me, and our hearts may become one. I love your friend, and I hate your enemy, and I like if you love my friend, and hate my enemies.

Written the 7th Tahsas (16th December 1867) in the time of Johannis the Evangelist, 1860, P. C. N.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God. Letter from Dejasmaj Cassa to Colonel Merewether. How are you?

By God's grace our friendship begins to be tied. But it is not one of to-day only, it came to me from Mikael, from Walda Selasse, from Sabagadis. I have received your gun; God may reward you for it. I am sending you a good mule and a cloth. I am your friend, be you, too, my friend. Make in some sort that your Queen may befriend me; make that the Chief of the army who is to come may become my friend.

Written the 7th Tahsas, 1860, P. C. N.

Colonel W. L. MEREWETHER, C.B., Resident at Aden, on special duty, Abyssinia, to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir ROBERT NAPIER, K.C.B., G.C.S.I.

Sir,

Camp, Senafé, 25th December 1867.

The time since my last Despatch was spent in visiting places in the neighbourhood of Senafé. On the 14th we went to Tekonda, which, instead of 18 miles as we were first informed, proved to be only 9½. The road, however, is one of the worst we have seen. After passing 1½ miles over the plain of Senafé, a hill had to be ascended, 393 feet, taking half an hour: road a mere track and covered with stones, fixed and loose. Immediately there was a descent of 456 feet, also strewed with stones for the first half, afterwards less so. Undulating ground was crossed for three quarters of a mile, then another rough ascent for 295 feet, followed immediately by a sloping very stony descent of 186 feet, and ascent

again of 165 feet, very steep and bad, in some places sheet rock and large blocks of sandstone chiefly, mixed with slate here and there. The road then passed along a plateau, giving a very fine view of part of the Akkola Kozai plain and distant high ground of Hamogen and Seramé, with the range of hills in the direction of Adowa, and heading a fine deep ravine, having perpendicular cliffs. This part was described as bad, on account of robbers, 25 years ago, by Dr. Ruppell; it has the same credit now. As far as this the road had been very bad; it doubtless could be very much improved, but it would take some time to do so, and employ people whose services would be more usefully engaged elsewhere. After passing a short distance along tolerably level ground the descent commenced, which lasted to the plain of Tekonda, a distance of four miles, in which the fall was 548 feet, irregularly dispersed. The plateau and hill sides are fairly clothed with juniper and wild olive trees, but as Tekonda is neared there are none. The village of Tekonda is on the top of a hill, 165 feet above the plain, and more than a mile from the King's Camp, which we stopped at on the previous occasion; the villagers have to bring water for daily consumption from the spring at the camp.

2. After Senafé, Tekonda appeared a desert, there was little grass to be seen, and in only one place signs of grain having been cut. In the village itself, no grain was purchaseable, from the crops having been almost entirely destroyed by locusts, and the people said this was the case with all the surrounding villages. Wood there was none near, but was plentiful three to four miles off, towards the edge of the highlands.

3. Tekonda would not answer for an encampment, owing to the scarcity of supplies and forage. But the Huddas route might be made use of for convoys, if the Senafé one gets choked at all, still, considering the badness of the ascent to Tekonda, and the road between that and Senafé, its use should be avoided as much as possible. The system of elders is followed at Tekonda, the same as in most other places. The heads of several families form a sort of council, one of them being recognized as the exponent, but he is not able to act without the consent of the others. We breakfasted outside of the house of one of the elders, who readily provided water and all else we required.

4. On the 16th we crossed the Shumnazana Plain, immediately adjoining Senafé to the south, and passing through a low range of hills entered another valley, in which the first King's Camp on the road to Attegerat is. The valley is about 5 miles long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad, running from N.W. to S.E., is one large sheet of grass and has a supply of water appearing at intervals down the centre of it, the source of the Mai Muna of the map. This river is wrongly made to reach the sea at Amphilla, but in reality joins the Ragoolay above the point where we reached that river in October last, and, as there stated, the Ragoolay empties itself into the Salt Lake, near the hill Marah. In the valley above mentioned, there are several considerable villages; amongst them Behat, near the head, Barakeet, on the east side, and Barahar, on the west. We visited all these, and at the last, which is situated at the mouth of a well wooded pretty ravine, having a clear spring of good water running down the centre, we were shown a shrine and cave, sepulchre of a holy personage by name Romanos, said to have died there in the seventh century. We were allowed to look into the cave through holes, and saw some pieces of cloth, covering what appeared to be a collection of bones and a human skull. Dr. Ruppell thus describes his visit to the place:—"On our way back to the camp (from Guna Guna to Barakeet) we visited the village Barakar, behind which, in a narrow and romantic ravine, intersected by a brook, there has been a chapel built, under a colossal projecting rock. Nice groups of sycamores, and other large trees, afford a peculiar charm to this ravine, which is entirely screened by them. Near the chapel they show you a cave, in part closed up, in which the founder of the hermitage lived, getting his food through a small aperture; near the cave was a coffin made of a sycamore trunk, and resembling an unadorned Egyptian mummy box. This chapel had also, besides some biblical works, its own memorandum book, in which was written that the deceased holy founder was a native of Romee (Greece, properly Constantinople), who came into this region in the reign of the Abyssinian King Kaleb (seventh century), performed many miracles, and finally caused himself to be closed up by brickwork, to pass there the remainder of his life." The biblical works, as well as the memorandum book, are still at the chapel; a transcript of the latter is being made, from which Dr. Krapf will, at his leisure, make translated extracts. It is in old Ethiopic. Having come by Barakeet, we returned *viâ* Behat, and found the road much the worst of the two, meeting a steep and in some parts difficult ascent. Behat and Barakeet belong to the Shumnazana district, though they are separated from it by a range of hills. Heavy clouds collected during this afternoon, and there was a sharp fall of rain on Senafé from 6.20 p.m. to 8, extending, as was afterwards learned, down the pass below Raha Geddee, but unfortunately not further.

5. From the information gathered, it appeared there were two main roads from Senafé to Attegerat, one called the King's road, the other the caravan road, with a third which goes for a short distance separately, but joins the King's road about 16 miles from Senafé. This last may be dismissed at once, as being deficient for that distance in water and grass. It was considered advisable to examine the other two; accordingly, on the morning of the 21st, accompanied by Colonels Playre and Wilkins, Dr. Martin, M. Munzinger, and Dr. Krapf, with escort of a troop of the 3d Light Cavalry under Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, I left Senafé, and, following the King's road, marched to Mai Muzrab, 20 miles, the first day, and to Attegerat, 17 more, the second, the whole distance being only 37 miles. The road passed a little to the left of Barakeet, and then across the southern end of the Mai Muzrab valley, over a low spur, into a much narrower valley, running from west to east at the foot of a striking scarped hill called Dessanee. In the centre was a running stream of water, which joined the Mai Muna a little lower down, and plenty of good grass. Proceeding west about two miles, we came to the village of Goona Goona, at the head of the valley and spring, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Senafé. There is another shrine here, with remains of saints, but we did not visit it. The water being dammed near the spring on the side of the hill, is conducted by small courses to various level spots, on which young wheat was growing well. This was also observed at two villages near Barakeet, where the green wheat, growing in terraces on the side of the mountain, with the early morning sun shining on them, had a very picturesque and refreshing effect. Imme-

diately after leaving Goona Goona, there was a steep ascent, which will require improving before it is easy for laden animals, but there is nothing that may not quickly be done by Sappers. For wheeled artillery it would take some time. The total height was not accurately taken, but it was under 300 feet, and spread over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. A spring of good water was found near the top. Once up, there was a fine level plain with grass and bushes, some of the latter stunted babul. At one mile, the third road from Senafé joined. Here also the district of Akkola Kozaie was left, and that of Agamé entered, and immediately after a ledge passed, having a ravine on the right called Kola Ambareel, leading down to the Mareb, and another to the left, leading to the eastern plains; thus we were on a narrow neck of land between the western and eastern watershed. To the left, a high scarped isolated hill was pointed out as Debra Matso, a stronghold of the family of Sabagadis; after going about four miles further, we left the road, and descended by a rough path into a valley to the watering place, Mai Muzrub (Mai means water). There were two villages close by called by the same name of Degginat, and two others a little distance off. Sufficient grain was purchased here for the whole of the animals; grass and water in abundance. The next morning we had to ascend again to reach the road, which was done in 25 minutes, then passed over the same level plain, till we turned the high hill called Focada, six miles from Muzrub. Here we had a fine view into a low valley to the right, apparently well cultivated, and having several villages in it. Towards the western end was another of those isolated naturally fortified hills, called Debra Damot, in this instance occupied by a peaceful colony of Abyssinian monks. At this point we were only 20 miles from Adowa, but the intervening country consisted of the most difficult hills and ravines the whole way. Passing round Focada was the village of the same name, seven miles from Muzrub, with signs of considerable cultivation, also with a plentiful supply all round of most excellent grass, and the same was noticed for four miles further, during which the road went along the side of a hill, with low valleys to the left. After four miles, there was a very steep descent of 186 feet, by a bad path, to Kur Subbur, a small village, now deserted, because the water usually found near it had dried up. From this to Attegerat, about six miles, was over a cultivated plain, with here and there springs of water.

6. The 37 miles, from Senafé to Attegerat, would be divided by troops moving into four marches:—

To Goona Goona	-	-	-	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
„ Mai Muzrub	-	-	-	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
„ Focada	-	-	-	7 „
„ Attegerat	-	-	-	10 „

At all these places there is abundant supply of water and forage, but wood is scarce. This might be met by previous arrangement. Or into three marches:—

Goona Goona	-	-	-	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
Focada direct, avoiding Mai Muzrub	-	-	-	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Attegerat	-	-	-	10 „
				35 „

7. Attegerat is the chief town of Agamé, but cannot boast of much size, it takes its importance more from having been the residence of Sabagadis, and being the centre of a fertile district, a market is held here every Monday, and as we witnessed, for we were able to visit it, well attended. There were several hundred people collected, almost as many women as men, and there appeared spirited business going on in corn, cows, sheep, ponies, hides, and pottery; salt pieces were also being sold, 50 for a dollar, so cheap as being near to the salt plain, from which it is not above 50 miles. There is a large Abyssinian church in the town, also a palace belonging to the son of Sabagadis. This ruler is now a prisoner with Wagshum Gobesye, having been taken away by that Prince when he visited this part of the country last year, because he was doubtful of the faith of the son of Sabagadis, and afraid of his turning against him. It was this act that made Kassa, who is connected with the Sabagadis family, raise the standard of revolt, and led to his becoming master of Tigré, as he is now. The wife of the son of Sabagadis is living in a house inside a walled enclosure, which might be dignified with the name of small fort. A little apart from the town good encamping ground may be selected anywhere; there are several springs of water and a good supply of grass, but fuel is very scarce, and would have to be brought in. I have made arrangements for some being stored for the coming troops.

8. Agamé proper is divided into four districts, viz.:—

1. Sassie,
2. Addi Subha,
3. Gueta Afisho,
4. Agotté Satta,

to which Prince Kassa has appointed the following four Chiefs, who are to govern together, forming a kind of council:—

1. Dejj Hadjee.
2. Shum Agamé Kessee.
3. Ayto Bareahee.
4. Ayto Keeksa.

Of these, 1, 3, and 4 are of the family of Sabagadis. There are, besides, two outlying districts, governed by their respective Chiefs,—

- Toresko, Chief Darras.
Geeto Makada, Chief Hagos.

Agamé produces wheat, barley, shéf, and some gram. All the four Chiefs were away collecting tribute, so I did not see them. I rather think their absence was intentional, as they were not certain how their paying respects would be accepted by their ruler Kassa, so thought it politic to avoid the interview for

the present. Many people have sent warnings to me not to put too much trust in Kassa, that his honesty of purpose is not to be relied on. This, of course, is borne carefully in mind, but everything is carried on as if his professions were considered sincere, and the warners are told that if he chooses to act in a friendly manner it will be to his benefit, but if he adopts the other course he will be met and treated accordingly. I may here give Dejjaj Kassa's origin; his father is Shum Leubien Mordja; his mother is the daughter of Dejjaj Lecutoo, father of Bulgeda, Area of Welda Selassie. His grandmother was the daughter of Shum Woldoo, and sister of Dejjaj Sabagadis. All the people at Attegerat seemed very glad to see us; one, an influential man who visited me, said, when they first heard of our arrival at Senafé they were afraid, but the accounts they had since received of our good treatment and liberal dealing had quite reassured them, and they were glad we had come.

9. There are three roads from this to Antalo, one by Atsbi, a detour, making the distance 95 miles, a second more direct, only 70 miles, by which the King usually goes, and a third, straighter still, by Honsen, but too difficult for laden animals to go by. The second will probably be the route selected for the advance of the army as being most direct, and 25 miles shorter than the first; a list of the stages is appended. But if the campaign is prolonged beyond the present season, or even for the present season, it is a question whether a portion of the force should not be sent to Atsbi to occupy it, as commanding the best and shortest road to the coast from Antalo. The chief caravan route from the salt plain passes by Effisoo to Atsbi, and it may be useful to try and employ these Kafila people to bring up stores from Howaki Bay, *via* Ragoolay, in the event of the Senafé line being found too distant, and the draw on the baggage cattle too great.

10. Having heard that Sir Charles Staveley had come to Senafé, we hastened to return, and came back by the caravan road to the eastward of the King's road. For the first seven miles the road was very fair, over undulating grass land, but the descent into the Ombeito valley then followed, very difficult, stony, and in some parts very steep, far worse than any other part of the road—total fall, is 20 minutes slow walking, 448 feet. The Ombeito valley is very pretty, narrow, bounded by high picturesque mountains on either side, grassy, and filled with very fine trees, water at intervals; about two miles further passed the valley of the same name, prettily situated at the foot of a fortress-looking mountain, and having before it to the east mountains and valleys picturesquely grouped. For five miles after the village the road was very fair, passing several villages, and some wheat cultivation. The poor people at one place were in a great state of consternation at the appearance of a very dense flight of locusts, fires were lit immediately, and men, women, and children were shouting and waving clothes and sticks in the endeavour to drive these destructive insects off the young wheat. For five years now has the country been devastated by them, and the poor inhabitants are in despair, fearing they are always to be. After the five miles we commenced a long heavy ascent over barren hills, with equal descent following, covering a distance of six miles, and quite unsuited for laden animals. It appeared we had left the caravan road a little to reach a pool of water, where we breakfasted, and the guides took us this high road as the shortest, then the caravan road was a little to the right, and had not near so much rise and fall. Still the rearguard was not in till 7½ p.m. We halted for the day at 2.30 p.m., near a running stream called Afoo Haka, part of the Mai Menna, and 19½ miles from Attegerat. There were several villages round about, some remains of jowaree cultivation, and a fair show of grass. We were near the eastern end of the mountain called Dussanee. The reason of this road being taken by the caravans, in preference to the other which is so much better, is, I am told, entirely political. The Shoho country is quite close, and the Shoho Chiefs insist on the caravans proceeding as near to their country as can be, that they may the more easily levy the security money which they take for allowing the merchants safe passage, and there is no power in the country sufficiently strong to check the Shoho exactions.

11. The first 4½ miles of the march on the 25th was rough, over low spurs, along the course of the same river we had been encamped on the night before, then into the Mai Menna plain and to Senafé by Barakeet. The whole distance only 15 miles, so that this route is actually 2½ miles shorter than the other one, but infinitely worse, and quite unfitted to move the baggage of an army by.

12. On arriving here, I found a servant of Mr. Flad had arrived from the King's camp, having gone first to Massowa, bringing a strange and, I believe, untrue story that the King had made a rapid march to Magdala, taken away with him all the captives, destroying the place, and returning to Kemera Denjea. His statement is as follows:—

"I took 18 days going from King Theodorus' camp at Kemera Denjea to Massowa, arriving at the latter place on the 18th December. I was accompanied by a man named Tjokali, also a servant of Mr. Flad. I was bearer of letters, one from Mr. Flad, another from Mr. Rassam, a third from Menelek, King of Shoa. Five days after leaving the camp we were made prisoners near Eifag (in Begemed) by soldiers of the King, natives of the country. They did it, knowing we had letters, to extort money from us. They took the letters, chained my companion, and told me that the letters would be restored, and the other messenger released, if I brought 30 dollars. As regards the King's movement, he only remained in Kemera Denjea four days, and then went to Magdala in five days more, taking all his people with him. He was obliged to leave the guns on the road. He remained three days at Magdala only, and taking all there with him returned to Kemera Denjea. He gave good words to Mr. Rassam. The captives had only hand chains on. He brought them all with him, and is said to be about to go north-west to Zar Amba, in Tehelga. At the same time, he told Mr. Rassam he would conduct him and the other captives to Tigré, and make it all good for them. The elder son of the King is said to be very sick; the younger, a son of the present Queen, to have been put in chains by the King for having conspired with the King of Shoa."

This story seemed to me so improbable that I at once doubted it, but afterwards, on M. Munzinger's recognition of the man as formerly being trustworthy, a temporary belief was given to his account. We then, however, proceeded to test it by dates, and found no faith could be placed in it. He was made to repeat his story, when he said all the events he pretended to have witnessed had occurred in

the month of October. Now we have letters from the captives written at Magdala on the 12th November. It appears to me the man has come as a spy from the King's camp, and either invented the story *en route*, as Abyssinians are wont to do, or he may have heard reports *en route* of something having occurred in the neighbourhood of Magdala and built the remainder as he came along.

13. At Attegerat we received a variety of statements. One, that Prince Menelek had attacked Magdala, but was driven back by the fire of the few guns in the fort. Another again that Wagshum Gobezie had obtained possession of Magdala, also that Theodorus had come from Begemeder into Lasta; none of these can be relied on. The only intelligence worthy of credence was that furnished by a respectable Abyssinian priest, who had obtained it from his friends in the different countries, viz., that Wagshum Gobezie was at Moocha, near Lake Haik, Menelek at Cheefa, 20 to 25 miles south-east from Magdala, and Theodorus at Este, about the same distance from Debra Tabor. Menelek was in alliance with the old Queen of the Wallo Gallas, Workeit, and is said to have attacked and defeated the new Queen Musteit.

14. We returned to camp here before Sir C. Staveley had left, and were able to give him the latest accounts of the country and roads we had acquired, as also the information he required before issuing his order for the improvement of the communication between this and the coast. After arranging all he started at 2 p.m. for Mulkutto.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General,
Resident, Aden, on special duty, Abyssinia.

P.S.—The arrangement for bringing up stores by country bullocks is progressing most satisfactorily; 916 had arrived up to yesterday, and many more are on their way, some coming by the Huddas line, which saves the other route from overcrowding. The people have taken to it most kindly. When advance is made to Attegerat and Antalo, which I hope may be soon, a similar plan will be adopted for the onward carriage of stores.

W. L. M.

ROUTE from Addigerat to Antalo.

No. 1.—To Mai Weehiz (about 13 miles), belonged before to Agamé, now to Haramât.

Road not bad; a short not bad ascent. The camp large; great running water.

No. 2.—To Ad Abagni (about 15 miles), belongs to Haramat.

Excepting a short descent near Mai Weehiz, the route all over large open plains. Plenty of villages.

No. 3.—To Don'gollo (about 12 miles). Province Zera.

Road middle good; a great bad descent, with forest. The camp's torrent very great; you pass it thrice. This year the watercourse not continual.

No. 4.—To Agula (about 14 miles). Province Zera.

Open large plain country; very good road. Large torrent at the camp; all these rivers go to the Taccazé.

No. 5.—To Dolo (about 19 miles). There is water about 12 miles from Dolo, called Mai Makdan, but it would not be enough for an army. Till Mai Makdan to Zera; after that to Enderta.

A bad ascent before Mai Makdan, another after it. Before Dolo a descent, small. Generally this part of the road not good, stony; some part of it desert. Dolo, great river; plenty of villages round.

No. 6.—To Haikallat (about 9 miles). Enderta.

Plain open; soil black. A small ascent on the road. Camp's river great.

No. 7.—To Afgul (about 9 miles). Enderta.

Some desert. A bad short descent. A village near camp. The water enough, but not so rich as the other stations.

No. 8.—To Antalo (about 5 miles). Enderta.

Hilly, irregular, but not bad road.

All 96 miles, about 100 miles; for a messenger four days. The markets not on the road are—Azbi, Antalo, Howzen. All the road plenty of grass; wood scarce.

Haramât has some grain; Enderta has nothing at all.

No. 3.

Memorandum by Sir Robert Napier. (Received 7 February 1868.)

Political Department.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Camp Zulla, the January 20, 1868.

The political aspect of affairs in Abyssinia, as that presented itself on the arrival of the Head Quarters of the Expedition in Annesley Bay, may be sketched as follows:—

The "Emperor Theodorus" is no longer an Emperor excepting in name. The only spots where he possesses authority are in his own camp, which is *en route* from Debra Tabor to Magdalla; and in Magdalla itself, which is held on his behalf by certain chiefs still attached to his fortunes.

Nevertheless, the prestige engendered by his career of conquest and bloodshed seems to have survived his actual power in a remarkable degree. The people of Abyssinia are said to tremble at his name, and chiefs at the head of powerful armies to retreat on the rumour of his approach. The number of fighting men with him in his camp has been variously stated as from 3,000 to 8,000. His march is encumbered with four large cannon, two mortars, and 14 waggons of ammunition. All those are dragged by his soldiers, and cause great trouble and delay. It is by reason of them that his march has been so prolonged. It is impossible to say when he may succeed in transporting them to Magdalla. By abandoning them and proceeding alone, or with a light force towards Magdalla, he might at any time reach his fastness there in four or five days. A portion of the Europeans are with Theodore in his camp. The remainder, including both Consul Cameron and Mr. Rassam, are in Magdalla.

We have letters from the former party as recent as the 3rd of December. On that date, Mr. Flad, one of their number, writes that the camp had reached a place called Wadela, and that Theodore was "in a fearful rage." The cause of his anger is not specified. It is inferred to have been on account of the difficulties which were retarding his progress. His followers were suffering severe privations from want of food.

Our latest tidings from the body of Europeans in Magdallah are contained in a letter from Mr. Rassam to General Merewether, C.B., dated the 23rd December, and in another of the same date from Mr. Rassam. Both these letters were received at head quarters on the 15th instant; copies of them have been duly transmitted.

The Princes among whom the late empire of Theodorus has now become partitioned are the following:—

- I. Kassa, of Tigre.
- II. Wagshoom Gobaze, of Lasta.
- III. Manilek, of Shoa.
- IV. Prince of Godjam.*
- V. Tissoo Gobaze, of Northern Abyssinia.

In addition to the above, there are the Wollo Galla tribes, Muhammadans, who are ruled by a Queen. They may, however, be regarded as the tributaries of either Manilek or Wagshoom Gobaze.

The Prince with whom it became necessary for me, first of all, to enter into friendly communications was Kassa, the ruler of Tigre. Senafé is situated in the country of that chief. On my arrival, I found that he had already placed himself in correspondence with the advanced brigade of the expedition, by despatching to Senafé a confidential messenger bearing a letter of which a translation is appended (Appendix A). The messenger's name is Murcha Worki, a respectable Abyssinian, who had at one time studied and acquired the English language in Bombay. It will be noticed from the letter in question that Kassa puts forward pretensions to be, not merely the ruler of Tigre, which he actually is, but the "Head of the chiefs of Ethiopia," which Theodore was when in his zenith. This is but a fresh indication of the need there is for vigilance on our part at the very commencement of our intercourse with the Abyssinian chiefs, lest any of them should be encouraged to hope for help at our hands in advancing such pretensions as all of them will probably be found apt to arrogate.

I have had several opportunities of conversing in my camp with Mr. Murcha Worki, and of impressing him with the real object and views of the British Government in this expedition. It was natural that his master should feel at least a strong desire for information on a point so materially affecting his interests and prospects. It was natural in the present state of Abyssinian politics,—with each province erected into a

* The ruler is dead, and the succession is being disputed.

separate principality, and each chief only watching his opportunity to make himself a ruler over the rest,—that the Prince of Tigre should see in the approaching British force a power which, if only it could be propitiated and enlisted on his side, might raise him to the wished for empire over his rivals. But while such feelings and such ambitions were natural on his part, it is also most necessary on ours to avoid being involved in the internal disputes of Abyssinia; but it was extremely desirable and indeed necessary to proceed towards him in a friendly manner. We have to march more than 100 miles through his country, from which we must draw supplies which we could not get without his assistance.

I gave much consideration to the Prince's proposal that I should send a confidential person to meet him, and after discussing the subject with Brigadier-General Merewether, C.B., I requested him to place in the form of a memorandum the reasons which lead me to comply with the Prince's request.

A copy of the memorandum is enclosed.

I have resolved to avail myself of the services of Major Grant, C.B., the well-known African traveller, who is present on the staff of the expedition, for the duty of proceeding, on my part, to the camp of Prince Kassa at Adowa, which is distant about 80 miles from our post at Senafé. From what I have observed of Major Grant since he has been on my staff, I am well satisfied that he is an officer on whose sound sense and firmness of character all confidence may be placed. I have of course carefully explained to him the policy by which he is to be guided in his intercourse with Prince Kassa. A copy of translation of my letter to that Prince, of which he is to be the bearer, is hereto appended (Appendix C). He starts to-morrow.

The more important native Princes whose good-will, in addition to that of Prince Kassa, it will be necessary to secure are Wagshoom Gobaze, the ruler of Lasta, and Menilek the ruler of Shoa. Both of those are the hearty enemies of Theodore; but not all their hatred of him suffices to give either of them courage to attack the common enemy, even in his now comparatively weakened condition. Manilek advanced recently with his army to within sight of Magdallah, and was supposed by our countrymen and others within to be on the point of assaulting the place; but his movements proved an empty menace. He disappeared with his army without having made any attempt against the fortress. What communications passed between him and Mr. Rassam were of a sufficiently friendly nature. He sent the latter a message that, though obliged temporarily to retire through want of provisions, he would return shortly and invest Magdallah in earnest.

Wagshoom Gobaze also has shown every disposition to enter into friendly communication with us. Copies of translations of a letter lately addressed by him to General Merewether, C.B., and of the reply which I have to-day caused to be written to him are appended (marked D).

There thus seems every possibility of our operations assuming to a considerable extent the character of a peaceful progress through friendly countries; but it would be dangerous to reckon too confidently on this happy issue. Where so many conflicting interests are involved, and where many sinister influences may perhaps be at work against us, we must be prepared for affairs assuming at any time the most unlooked for posture. Wagshoom Gobaze is supposed to be able to take the field at the head of 30,000 armed men. 30,000 cavalry and 20,000 infantry have been mustered at a time under the standard of Menilek. Such soldiery as theirs may indeed be little formidable when opposed in regular warfare to British troops; but we have experienced before now what a serious matter a guerilla warfare is apt to prove when waged by tribes somewhat similar to those of Abyssinia. The display of our resources which is here to be witnessed is probably of itself the main prop of those friendly communications which appear to be awaiting us. When Mr. Murcha Worki was in my camp, I took care that he should be introduced as much as possible to our military strength. He saw our mountain guns making excellent practice; he also visited the shipping in the harbour, including, as that does, H.M. war frigate the "Octavia." The report of our preparations that he will carry back to Tigre will perhaps do us a service.

When it appears from the letters of our countrymen at Magdallah, that at the period when the head quarters landed at Zoulla, according to the latest intelligence then in our hands, Theodore encumbered with his much-prized impedimenta, was struggling to reach Magdallah, perhaps strategists in England may be of opinion that an opportunity was let slip of attacking him at a disadvantage during his flank march, rescuing from his grasp those of our countrymen who were with him in his camp, and at the same time preventing him from reaching Magdallah. But it will be noticed that the letters from our countrymen in the interior, conveying intelligence of Theodore's position, are dated on and about the 15th of December. Those letters did not reach my head

quarters until the 4th instant. In one of them, that of Mr. Rassam dated the 15th of December, there occurs this passage. "I enclosed you three notes which I had received from Mr. Flad. His latest date was the 3rd instant (December). They (Theodore and his army) had then just arrived in Jejaho on their way here; but, at the rate they had been travelling since they left Debra Tabor on the 4th October (the distance being only about 50 miles between the latter place and Jejaho), they could not be here before the end of February. If the King wants to join us quickly, however, he could be here in four or five days by leaving all the heavy baggage behind, which he will assuredly do if he hears of the approach of the British army."

Thus it was apparent to me that Theodore could at any time reach Magdallah. At the time I was reading of his being on the march, it was possible that he was even then there. Even if he was still on the march, no degree of celerity short of the speed of wings could have conveyed a force between him and his destination before he could have reached the latter.

But even if circumstances had seemed to indicate such an attempt being made, which it has just been shown they did not, the means of making it were not at my disposal.

An advance brigade mustering 1,300 sabres and bayonets, with four guns, composed entirely of Native troops, was indeed at Senafé on the 4th of January. Magdallah is 340 miles from Senafé. This would have taken at least 30 days to accomplish. But the troops at Senafé were without supplies sufficient to enable them to move. Notwithstanding all my urgency with the Bombay Government, continued since September last, that supplies for six months should be stored on this coast, they had been unable fully to carry out my wishes.

A reference to my council note of the 26th September last, a copy of which is attached for ready reference (Appendix E.), will show how explicitly the necessity of having six months supplies for 9,500 men ready at post No. 2 by the time I should have occasion to advance from that point was submitted to the Government of Bombay.

The statement of the actual amount of rations in store on this coast on the 3rd instant, which is noted in the margin,* will show how far the efforts of the Bombay Government had succeeded in fulfilling my requisition.

The incomplete state of the Land Transport Corps, moreover, as I found it at the date of my landing, would have precluded the proper forwarding of rations to the inland posts even if those supplies had been stored in the requisite quantities at Zoulla. This corps also, it will be remembered, was organized by the Bombay Government on a plan little differing from that of the ordinary commissariat carriage, and required much alteration in its organization.

By the unwearied exertions of the commanding officer and his subordinates of the corps much has been done to effect this, and to remedy its original deficiencies.

With reference to the strength of the force employed, the facts of our position are as follows.

At Senafé a sufficient force must always be present to overawe the Province of Tigre and prevent its ruler from attempting to make requisitions from us such as we could not comply with. Then a considerable force is required to keep open our communications between Senafé and Magdallah. Our route, as has been stated, brings us into contact or proximity with the territories of two Princes, namely, Wagh-hoom Gobaze and Menilek, whose armies are estimated, the former at 30,000, and the latter at 50,000 men.

Neither can it be left out of view that the reduction of Magdallah itself may be a work requiring no imperfect military resources. We know little of the condition of that fortress, excepting that it stands on a position of great natural strength, has only two entrances and is defended by guns. If any of the Europeans within the fortress has ever furnished us with an intelligent description of its military features, I have not seen such description.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Appendix A.

Copy of a letter received by Brigadier-General Merewether from Prince Kassa of Tigré by hands of Murcha Worki at Rara Guddy on 4th December 1867.

In the name of the Father, &c., &c. Letter sent by Dajasmaj Kassa, head of the Chiefs of Ethiopia, to reach the Chief of the British soldiers. How are you? very well?

By the Christ's grace, I have recovered the throne of my ancestors, of Michael, of Walda, &c., &c. Of old we are house friends from Consul Salt till down to Consul Plowden. I expected to receive a letter from you, but as it has been retarded, I have sent myself. I know not what you have come for. If I knew it, it would please me. We are house friends. Ly Murdjee the son of Ato Worki, who knows my language and yours. I am sending my heart (*i.e.* my real sentiments), and you are to send to me your heart.

Seal of Dedjasmaj Kassa, head of the chiefs of Ethiopia.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Appendix B.

Memorandum by Brigadier-General MEREWETHER, C.B.

With reference to the draft letter to Prince Kassa, submitted to your Excellency for approval, I have had to-day a long conversation with Mr. Murcha Worki, who was sent to the camp at Senafé in a confidential capacity by his master the Prince, and who well knows his opinions, position, prospects, and wishes, as well as the general feeling of the people around him, in regard to the presence of the English army.

Mr. Murcha spoke much and earnestly about the 2nd paragraph of the draft, in which it was said merely "that H. E. would be happy to have a meeting with you, and would be glad that it should be arranged for at Senafé, or Addigerat." Prince Kassa, in his letter received on 19th December, when he sent Murcha back to the camp, wrote—"When General Sir R. Napier arrives, send me a man—myself I will send a trusty man to assure and reciprocate relations, that is that I have faith in you, and you in me, &c." Murcha said, and certainly with reason, that after the request of Prince Kassa, as given above, if the reply made conveys merely a statement, that your Excellency would be happy to have a meeting on the road, and shows no sign of compliance with his request that some one should be sent to him, he will feel affronted, will be unable to conceal that he is so, and that this will be immediately taken advantage of by the portion of his adherents who have been urging him all along to expel the intruders in his country. At Adowa there are two factions, one advising Kassa to preserve friendship, the other trying to persuade him to resent the intrusion, and to drive the new comers from the country. Kassa, though somewhat elated by his sudden rise to power, brought about in six months time, in which he has mastered all Tigre, seems not to be wanting in good sense, and has for the present at all events, followed the advice of the former. Anything that is likely to cause him to change, should I think be avoided if possible. It is true his army is contemptible as an army, consisting only of some thousands of badly armed rabble, but he is capable of doing us an immense deal of injury if he adopted a hostile attitude. The army must pass for about 150 miles through his country; for any supplies obtainable in it we are dependent on his assistance. His capital and present position at Adowa is on the right flank of the march of the army and threatens Addigerat and Senafé. Should a breach with him occur, measures must immediately be taken, and before the force could advance a step further, to coerce him, or in other words, for such it would be, to conquer Tigre. This would cause most inconvenient delay, and occupation of the country in strength, a certain portion of the population might continue actively hostile to us, involving necessity of strong escorts for every convoy or party. On the other hand, if amicable relations are maintained with Kassa, we have the whole weight of his power, and orders to assist us, a friendly population throughout, ready to do what they can for us, and every supply that the country can produce certainly brought in. It is therefore of the first importance, in my opinion, that nothing should be omitted which could in any way promote the good feeling which Kassa evidently is desirous of evincing. It is clearly to his interest to be on good terms with us, and he seems to be well aware of it. It is equally so to ours, to have him, his people, and the resources of his country at our disposal. I would therefore most strongly recommend that his request, that some one may be sent to him, should be complied with. There would be no danger whatever in the measure. The compliment would please him greatly, and he would take every care that not the slightest annoyance should reach those sent by your Excellency. Besides which he is completely at your mercy at Adowa, and would not dare to do or allow anything likely to embroil him. The manner of arranging the matter I would propose is as follows.

That Mr. Murcha should at once return to his master, bearing the letter as previously drafted, only with this alteration. In place of the 2nd paragraph the following: "The request conveyed in your letter of the 16th December, that some one should be sent to you, after the arrival of General Sir Robert Napier, has been submitted to his Excellency, and conceded to by him. I have the pleasure therefore to inform you that an officer of his Excellency's staff, and Mr. Munzinger, the British Consul at Massowa, will shortly be despatched to visit you, to communicate with you in accordance with the friendly feelings you have expressed, and to receive from you such communications as you may wish to make verbally. I would at the same time request that you will send back Mr. Murcha Worki as soon as possible to Senafé with a suitable escort to conduct the above-mentioned officer to you."

The officer sent by your Excellency might have instructions to hear everything Prince Kassa wished to have communicated to you, but merely intimating in reply, that such matters would be duly submitted, and your reply given afterwards in due course. This will prevent any final arrangements or complications being entered into, and will give time for future consideration. Entering into friendly communications thus, and accepting Prince Kassa's friendly advances, does not necessarily bind us to

support him or to interfere in any way with the question of his relation to others in the country. If he remains ruler of Tigre, and is content to do so, the proposal which he verbally made through Mr. Murcha, to send messengers to England, might be entertained when the time for the troops leaving the country arrived, or even at once, and the embassy allowed to proceed, and let him and his country benefit afterwards by the advantages which a treaty of a purely commercial nature would convey to them. I am informed that Kassa has three points on which he wishes to be assured:

1st. That the English army will leave Abyssinia when the object for which it has come shall be accomplished.

2nd. That no English Consul shall be appointed in Abyssinia.

3rd. That the English shall not promote the entry of Egyptians into Abyssinia.

These accord exactly with the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

Suitable presents to be made to Mr. Murcha on his leaving Zoula, and others to be prepared for Prince Kassa to accompany the officer deputed by your Excellency.

W. L. MEREWETHER,
Brigadier-General.

Appendix C.

To Prince KASSA.

After compliments.

We informed you by Dajaj Murcha Worki that we were about to send two gentlemen to you, Major Grant and M. Munzinger, whom we would commend to you. This letter will be delivered to you by Major Grant, C.B., who will communicate to you my intentions and wishes. He will inform you that the British army is about to advance on Magdallah. It will move from Senafé on the 26th inst., and be at Antalo on the 2nd February.

It will proceed through your country, and, trusting in your cordial friendship, we now ask that you will give orders to all your officers to cause supplies, such as grass, wood, bullocks, corn, sheep, goats, barley, jowaree, wheat, lef, flour, and ghee, to be collected at the different places *en route*, especially at Addigerat and Antalo, that they may be purchased for the army. Everything will be paid for. Mules also are required and will be bought.

We should be glad to have a personal intercourse with you at Addigerat or near it, that our friendship may be improved. We trust that this may be arranged with Major Grant.

Appendix D.

LETTER OF DAJAZMAJ GOBAZE, Head of the Chiefs, to reach the Chief of the British Army.

On the 11th of Tehsas (21st Dec. 1867).

Very well. How are you, till we will meet? When you like my friendship, I, too, am not averse to have your friendship. Now I am preparing (going to make) war. Your proclamation has not pleased.* When the man I am sending to you comes back, then I will publish it.

REPLY.

4 January 1868.

Your letter has been received and submitted to his Excellency General Sir Robert Napier, Commander-in-Chief of the English Army, who is here. He desires me to tell you that he is coming with the army, and desires your friendship, and if you would arrange that supplies of corn, flour, and ghee should be collected in your country for his army, he will be greatly pleased. Everything used by the army will be paid for. He would be glad if you would publish his proclamation throughout your country.

I wrote to you a few days ago saying the army was coming. I trust the letter reached and found you in health. I salute, &c.

W. L. MEREWETHER,
Brigadier-General.

Appendix E.

COUNCIL NOTE by his Excellency SIR ROBERT NAPIER.

September 26, 1867.

I have in the course of consultation expressed to the Commissary General my opinion of what is required, which is, that I want six months' supplies for 9,500 men, to be ready at Post No. 2, when I am able to advance from that point.

If three months are consumed in arriving at that condition, supplies will have been consumed by all the force that leaves Bombay corresponding with the portions of those three months during which they may have been between Bombay and Post No. 2.

In round terms, six months' supplies should be delivered, in fact, as soon as possible for the whole force, and three months' supplies should be ready for current expenditure. After that the expenditure should be replaced so as to leave always six months' on hand.

Such supplies as are perishable should be sent, as required, for the time during which they will keep. Flour properly packed in barrels keeps a long time. For native followers, corn and hand mills, or other portable mills, will be required.

For the Land Transport, it will be well to organize their own system of light hand-mills, so that, when necessary, they may grind their own flour.

* This is said to mean that it was not expedient to publish it then, but when W. G. heard that the army was really coming, he would publish it. W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General.

The provision of forage for the mules which may soon arrive in Abyssinia will have to be considered at once. Many of the mules may be able to feed on grain inferior to gram, and more easily procurable, such as barley, jowaree, bojree, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Bombay Army.

No. 4.

Sir ROBERT NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India. (Received February 7, 1868.)

Secret.

Right Hon. Sir,

Camp, Zoulla, January 16, 1868.

I have the honour to forward copy of a letter I have received from Brigadier General Merewether, C.B., bringing to notice the conduct of the Governor of Massowa.

A copy of a communication addressed by me, on receipt of Brigadier-General Merewether's letter, to his Excellency Abdul Kadir, together with a copy of a memorandum on this subject by Brigadier-General Merewether, is also enclosed.

I have the honour also to forward for your information copy of a letter which I have addressed to Colonel Stanton, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt, on the subject of Brigadier-General Merewether's letter of complaint and confidential memorandum.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief Abyssinian Expedition.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

Brigadier-General Merewether, C.B., to Sir R. Napier.

Sir,

Camp, Mulkutto, January 14, 1868.

On our first arrival at Massowa in October last, the Governor of that place, Hussein Bey, declared that he was most anxious to do everything in his power to assist the Expedition. His Excellency the Governor-General of the Soudan, Jaffer Pasha, gave him strict orders to do so, in accordance with the instructions that had been issued by His Highness the Viceroy.

At first Hussein Bey acted well enough, and until lately I have been under the impression that he was really anxious to work cordially and energetically with the English authorities.

I have, however, I regret to say, now to bring to your Excellency's notice that there is on his part either deliberate absence of co-operation, or incapability of doing what is required; whichever it may be, it is equally detrimental to the interests of the expeditionary force, and contrary to the wishes and orders of His Highness the Viceroy.

Lately, there have been a variety of outrages committed in the neighbourhood of Zoola, some undoubtedly by and traced to Shohos of the district. The electric wires to give telegraphic communication with Senafé is being set up, and has been several times injured. Hussein Bey was addressed on the subject, and his Excellency Abdool Kadir Pasha was good enough to summon the Bey from Massowah to make proper arrangements, and at the same time gave him directions to visit me for the purpose of consulting how protection could be best afforded in future to the telegraph line and convoys. I was informed that he would come to me on Saturday. He did not do so. A peremptory order was then given by his Excellency Abdool Kadir Pasha that he should come the next day. This he did not do either, but yesterday morning, without sending any previous intimation of his intended coming, he suddenly arrived, when I was about to dress. I requested Mr. Munzinger, who communicated his arrival, to inform the Bey that I was unable to receive him then, but if he would come later in the day I should be happy to see him. He became very passionate, spoke most intemperately and improperly, rode off, and has not up to this moment attempted to come near me again, or shown any disposition to carry out the orders of his Excellency Abdool Kadir Pasha.

It is clear from the above that there is little chance of successful and prompt co-operation being obtained from a person who acts in such a manner. Time is of every importance, and it is particularly necessary that matters should be on a perfectly satisfactory footing here, before your Excellency's departure for the highlands.

I would therefore venture to suggest that application should be made to his Excellency Abdool Kadir Pasha that a change may be effected, that Hussein Bey may be transferred elsewhere, and another officer put in his place at Massowa, who would be better able to act in accordance with the authorities of the English army, and would enter heartily into what has to be done.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General,
On special duty, Abyssinia.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

His Excellency Sir Robert Napier presents his compliments to his Excellency Abdool Kadir Pasha and solicits the favour of his Excellency's consideration of the accompanying letter from General Merewether referring to the conduct of Hussein Bey, Governor of Massowa.

It is very urgent for the reasons stated by General Merewether, that the Governor of Massowa should be an officer who would act more in accordance with the views of his Highness the Viceroy of Egypt, than the present Governor has done.

The very great consideration already shown by his Excellency the Pasha towards the officers of the British Expedition gives Sir Robert Napier the fullest assurance that his Excellency appreciates the importance of the most complete cordiality between the officers of the Egyptian and the English Government.

Camp, Zoulla,
January 14, 1868.

W. M. DILLON, Lieut.-Col.,
Military Secretary.

Enclosure 3 in No. 4.

Sir Robert Napier to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul General, Egypt.

Sir,

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Zoulla, January 15, 1868.

I have the honour to enclose for your consideration a copy of a letter received from Brigadier-General Merewether, regarding the conduct of the Governor of Massowah; also a copy of my note to his Excellency Abdool Kadir Pasha.

A hostile Governor of Massowah is able to cause very serious annoyance to the progress of the Expedition: and after what has occurred, I cannot hope that we shall receive from the present Governor the degree of assistance which I am confident it is the desire of his Highness the Viceroy, should be afforded us.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure 4 in No. 4.

Memorandum by Brigadier General MEREWETHER, C.B.

Camp, Zoulla, January 15, 1868.

On my first arrival at Massowah, in October, Hussein Bey placed the Egyptian coal there at my disposal, and ordered every one to assist with boats, supplies, &c. He also gave me the young Chief of the Dunkellis to act with me, and one of the brotherhood of the Nailis of Arkeeko for the same purpose. I anticipated from this that he was really desirous of giving every assistance. But soon afterwards I heard he had sent for the young Dunkellis chief to attend him for the purpose of going to Edd to buy camels for the Egyptian Government. I wrote to Hussein Bey, telling him I was purchasing camels at Edd for the English force and that it would be very inconvenient his doing so just now, wherefore I requested that he would postpone his purchases. He wrote in reply that he had orders to get the camels and he must do so. This I did not expect from him, after his first proceedings, and hearing he had come to Zoulla three miles from my camp I sent and requested him to come to my tent. I then explained to him that I was very much displeased at what had occurred, that he had received orders from His Highness the Viceroy to assist us in every possible way; that he had done so at first, but now when I had made a very important request to him, he had declined acceding to it, I therefore wished to explain to him once for all, that I should never ask for anything that was not absolutely necessary, but when I did, the request must be immediately complied with, or I should be compelled to report him through Colonel Stanton, C.B., to His Highness the Viceroy. Since then I have had little direct communication with him, but I have private intelligence that he has been secretly working against us and doing all he can to create obstacles; unfortunately as yet I have no written proof of this, it is all oral information, but I am not the less satisfied that it is correct.

When I was at Uddoda, towards the end of November, it was reported to me that Egyptian troops had been at Wah three miles distant. Not having heard that any men were to be sent there I caused enquiries to be made, and found the troops consisted of one Egyptian soldier, who had come there from Massowah and told the people they were not to help the English, but might plunder them as much as they liked, and that they ought to do so. Who this man was sent by is not clear, but Hussein Bey is pointed to. One thing however, is very certain that up to that time not a thing had been lost or stolen; that kit left lying about the plain was left either untouched or brought into our camps by the Shohos, people of the country. After the commencement of December there was a change and several outrages were perpetrated during that month, some of which were clearly traced to the Shohos.

In the beginning of this month the telegraph to Senafé has been commenced setting up, and the wire has been injured in such a way as to show that the act had been prompted by some one who knew how the communication could be damaged, viz., the wire was three times cut and pieces removed (the wire is too thick to use for binding spears, the only thing a Shoho could possibly think it might be suitable for), it was slipped off the insulators, and one pole insulator and all was taken away and has not been recovered yet. A coil of wire weighing one cwt. was also carried off. This is not the sort of work Shohos would indulge in unless they were put up to it by some knowing hand. To put a stop to these outrages Hussein Bey was written to, to make arrangements. These being delayed I asked H. E. Abdool Kader Pasha to order Hussein Bey to see to these things. The latter was summoned from Massowah and told by Abdool Kader to come to me to consult as to the best means of preserving the line of telegraph and roads from molestation. He was told to visit me on Saturday the 11th; he did not come. A peremptory order was then sent by Abdool Kader Pasha that he was to come to me on Sunday the 12th. He neither came nor sent any explanation why he could not come. On Monday morning without any previous intimation of his approach he appeared at my tent; I sent out to say that I was dressing (I was just going to bath), but would be happy to see him later in the day. He launched out in a most insolent manner, and in a towering rage, saying he was a big man, servant of the Viceroy, and would not be treated so; that he did not care for the English; was he a dog to be treated so? Nought of this did I hear, as it passed in Mr. Munzinger's tent, so I could not mention it in detail in my official letter, but it was communicated to me immediately afterwards, when

I was in my bath, by Mr. Munzinger. Hussein Bey went off and has not attempted to come near since. I gave him 24 hours to do so, after which I reported him to Sir R. Napier and suggested application should be made for his being changed from this, and some other person to be sent who would manage better and more cordially with us. If he has not been deliberately acting against us in secret, and I firmly believe from what I have heard from more than one quarter that he has, it is quite clear that he has no desire to act cordially with us, or to carry out properly the orders of His Highness the Viceroy, the sooner therefore he is removed to another sphere the better, and a more useful person sent here in his stead.

When I have been away the young Naib of Arkeeko, a very honest young fellow, has privately warned my assistant, Lieutenant Mockler, that Hussein Bey was working against us. This was in addition to and irrespective quite of information obtained through (?) Mr. Munzinger among the tribes and direct from Massowa. He has been heard then to say he did not care two pence about the English in any way. The young Naib also told Mockler that Hussein Bey was in secret communication with Prince Kassa the new ruler of Tigre, and that it was not for our good. The messenger who took His Highness the Viceroy's letter to Abyssinia has also, I heard, been spreading about reports at Adowa where he was long detained, injuriously to us, and in communication with Hussein Bey who wants to mislead the people of Abyssinia with regard to the intentions of the English, declaring their object is to take and possess Abyssinia.

All this is only hearsay at present, but I have faith in it, and doubtless will obtain proof bye and bye, meanwhile it is given to show all the information possessed on the subject, and that it is highly expedient that Hussein Bey should be got out of this part of the country. His removal would be an useful hint to his successor.

I have, &c.

W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General.
On special duty, Abyssinia.

No. 5.

Sir Robert Napier to the Secretary of State for India (received 7th February 1868).
(Political. No. 4.)

Right Honourable Sir, Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Zoulla, January 18, 1868.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Melville's letter dated the 24th December 1867, and in reply to state that from the full publicity which has been given to the proclamations, of which copies are hereto attached, it seems hardly possible that any real grounds for doubt can still exist in the apprehension of the Egyptian Government with respect either to the object of this expedition or the temporary character of our present occupation of the Egyptian Sea Board.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander in Chief.

Enclosure in No. 5.

To the Governors, the Chiefs, the Religious Orders, and the People of Abyssinia.

26th October 1867.

It is known to you that Theodorus King of Abyssinia detains in captivity the British Consul Cameron, the British Envoy Rassam, and many others, in violation of the laws of all civilized nations.

All friendly persuasion having failed to obtain their release, my Sovereign has commanded me to lead an army to liberate them.

All who befriend the prisoners or assist in their liberation shall be well rewarded, but those who may injure them shall be severely punished.

When the time shall arrive for the march of a British army through your country, bear in mind, people of Abyssinia, that the Queen of England has no unfriendly feelings towards you, and no design against your country or your liberty.

Your religious establishments, your persons, and property shall be carefully protected.

All supplies required for my soldiers shall be paid for; no peaceable inhabitants shall be molested.

The sole object for which the British force has been sent to Abyssinia, is the liberation of Her Majesty's servants and others unjustly detained as captives, and as soon as that object is effected it will be withdrawn.

There is no intention to occupy permanently any portion of the Abyssinian territory, or to interfere with the Government of the country.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief Bombay Army.

No. 6.

Sir R. Napier to the Secretary of State for India (received 8th February 1868).

Right Hon. Sir, Commander-in-Chief's Office, Abyssinia,
Camp Zoulla, January 8th, 1868.

I have the honour to inform you that I arrived at Annesley Bay in H.M.S. "Octavia" on the 3rd January 1868, and immediately assumed the personal direction of

the operations of Her Majesty's troops in Abyssinia. Circumstances prevented my landing immediately on arrival, but I did so on the 7th January, and have since been enabled by personal inspection to satisfy myself with regard to the very considerable progress in preparation for the expedition effected by the troops, now under the command of Sir C. Staveley, assisted by the navy.

2. A bunder or wharf has been constructed which projects from the shore 900 feet into the sea. It is formed of stone with rivetted sides and supports a tramway which in some parts consists of a double line of rails. This tramway runs from the point of the bunder through the camps of the commissariat and ordnance departments, and is of great service in the disembarkation of supplies. At the sea end of this bunder a condenser is placed which in conjunction with another condenser in a small island some 300 yards farther south supplies daily a large quantity of fresh water. The total amount of water daily condensed by these two fixed condensers and by the vessels in harbour amounts to 160 tons. Of these 120 tons are daily placed on shore, which affords a copious supply for all the troops, followers, and animals at present at Zoulla. A second pier is in course of construction and will be completed in about a fortnight. The tramway to connect this new pier with the camp has already made very considerable progress. It joins the tramway from the old pier about three-quarters of a mile from the shore. The tramway is completed and in working order for a distance of about one mile from the shore, and will be rapidly carried forward in the direction of Koomayloo by large working parties. The framework of two large commissariat sheds has been constructed; as yet only one is roofed. The covering for the others has just arrived from England.

3. In other respects the commissariat park as well as that of the ordnance are in excellent condition. The commissariat department has at present at Zoulla rations, with the exception of biscuits, for 2,000 Europeans for three months, and complete rations for 7,000 natives, including followers, for six months.

4. The health and spirits of the troops are excellent. There are only 33 European soldiers in hospital on account of slight ailments; 58 native soldiers are on the sick list, but neither among these nor among the Europeans are there any serious cases. I enclose a distribution list of the troops, both European and Native, showing their quarters yesterday.

5. Arrangements have been made by which forage will be conveyed from Zoulla to Koomayloo by carts as well as pack animals. This will greatly accelerate the transport of that important article.

6. The epidemic among the mules and horses still continues; the latest reports of the total casualties since disembarkation among the horses are as follows:—

3rd Cavalry have but 181 out of 499 landed. The epidemic has now ceased in this regiment, and their horses are healthy and in remarkably fine condition.

G. 14 R.A., have lost five horses out of 128 landed. Nine others have been attacked but slightly, and there are hopes of their recovery. The disease is on the decrease, and the officers of the veterinary department finds that the disease yields under the application of stimulants and counter irritation. I trust that soon camels and bullocks only may be employed for transport between Zoulla and the highland, and that the railway may ere long supersede all other transport between Zoulla and Koomayloo.

I regret that there is still on the road to Senafé one march of 28 miles in length with a scanty supply of water. The troops, however, experience no difficulty in accomplishing this distance with such supplies as can be carried with them.

7. I consider it most necessary to thoroughly provision the important point of Senafé. When this has been accomplished the advanced guard may push on. It is to be hoped that such an advance and the display of our power on the highlands and in Abyssinia proper may induce the Natives to supply our markets with plentiful supplies. I shall, however, rely only on the provisions transported from the base of operations, and shall not risk ultimate detention by a hasty confidence in probable and not assumed supplies.

8. The road to Senafé, except in two places, is available for wheel transport. It will be available throughout its whole length in a week.

9. Nineteen elephants have arrived from Bombay, and have been landed in good condition.

10. The organization of the Land Transport Corps is daily improving, but the number of transport animals is still in excess of the due proportion of drivers, without whom their utility is greatly diminished. The total number of pack animals in Abyssinia may be estimated at 10,900. There are about 1,200 mules in course of shipment at Kurrachee, and upwards of 3,000 pack bullocks are collected at Bombay and only

require to be shipped off. There are some mules still remaining at Suez. About 2,000 camels are reported ready for us on the coast of Arabia, for a part of which shipping has been sent.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE FORCE, 7th January 1868.

Zoulla; Head-quarters.

European Troops.

Native Troops.

Major-General Sir C. Staveley, { 3/21 R.A. } Steel Mountain.
K.C.B. and Brigade-Major { 5/21 „ }
Schneider. { 1/4 K.O. Royal Regiment.

{ Detachment Scinde Horse under orders for Senafé; 3rd Bombay N.I.; 25th N.L.I.; wing 23rd Punjab Pioneers; Detachment Land Transport Corps: 2 companies Madras Sappers.

Koómayloo.

Temporary distribution; Brigadier-General Wilby. { G/14, R.A., 1 company 33rd Regiment.
In the passes working,—
1 Belooch Battery; detachment Bombay Marine;
detachment Bombay Sappers.
En route to Senafé,—
4 companies 33rd Regiment.

At Senafé.

Major-General Malcolm, C.B., { Head-Quarters, 33rd Regiment
and Brigadier-General Collings. { R.E. 10th Company

{ 3rd Regiment N.L. Cavalry: Detachment Scinde Horse; Detachment Bombay Sappers; Mountain Train, 10th Regiment N. I.

Europeans, 2,993 non-commissioned officers and rank and file. Natives, 4,548. Detachment Land Transport Corps.

MARTIN DILLON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Military Secretary.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE TROOPS.

11th January 1868.

Station.	Temporary Distribution of General Officers.	European Troops.	Native Troops.
"Zoulla" (head quarters). ¹	Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B. { Brigadier-General Schneider.	3/21 R. A. } Steel mountain 5/21 R. A. } batteries. 1/4 (K.O.) Foot.	Detachment Scinde Horse* (part under orders for Senafé), 3rd Bombay Native Infantry, 25th Bombay Native Light Infantry, Wing 23rd Punjab Pioneers, Detachment Land Transport Train, two companies Madras Sappers.
"Koomayloo."	Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B. { Brigadier-General Wilby.	Detachment G/14 R. A.	One company Madras Sappers, one company Belooch Battalion.
In the Passes working.	Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B. { Brigadier-General Wilby.	Nil.	Seven companies Belooch Battalion, detachment Bombay Marine Battalion, three companies Bombay Sappers.
At "Senafé."	Major-General G. Malcolm, C.B. { Brigadier-General Collings.	Her Majesty's 33rd Foot; head quarters 10th Company Royal Engineers, detachment G/14 R. A. (with horses).	3rd Regiment Bombay Light Cavalry, detachment Scinde Horse, detachment Bombay Sappers, No. 1 Company Native Artillery (with mountain train), 10th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry, detachment Land Transport Train.
Total strength	-	{ Europeans, 1,993 - Native Troops, 4,890 -	{ Native Cavalry rank and file. Do. do.

* Head Quarters, just arrived in the Bay.

Casualties.

None (since last return).

	<i>Sick.</i>			
Europeans	-	-	-	49
Natives	-	-	-	156
Total	-	-	-	205 Troops
and	-	-	-	123 Followers.

W. G. MAC LEOD,
Lieut-Colonel, Acting Deputy Adjutant-General. A.E.F.

Three vessels containing detachments of Sind Horse have just arrived in harbour. These detachments number 180 officers and men and 685 horses.

No. 7.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 8th February 1868).

Commander-in-Chief's Office,
Abyssinia Field Force, Zoulla, 11th January 1868.

Right Honourable Sir, In continuation of my report of the 8th January, I have the honour to inform you that matters are progressing very favourably in Abyssinia.

2. The road to Senafé is now nearly practicable for guns throughout its whole length, and in a few days will be entirely so.

3. The well at "Undul" is working well and now supplies five tons of water, or 1,200 gallons, by working from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

4. The railway is being pushed on briskly, and I hope that in three weeks it may be in working order as far as Koomayloo. The transport "Flying Venus" arrived in harbour yesterday with a locomotive engine and a large amount of railway gear on board, which will be quickly landed.

5. I regret that the transport "Birmah" has been this afternoon reported on shore at Ras el Shalik about 15 miles off. She also has a large cargo of railway gear on board. H.M.S. "Satellite" has gone to her assistance, and I have little doubt but that by means of the ready labour and willing energy which both officers and men of the Navy have devoted to all the purposes of the expedition her cargo will soon be safely in Annesley Bay.

6. The telegraph between this place and Koomayloo has been twice cut by the natives with the object of appropriating the wire, but apparently from no desire on the part of the Dankali tribes to impede our operations.

7. The matter has been referred to the chiefs of the neighbouring tribes, who have held a meeting with the object of discovering the culprit and of punishing him for the offence.

8. The epidemic among the animals appears to decrease, and the cases which occur seem to yield to stimulative medicines. I regret to have to announce that the transport "India," which came into harbour yesterday from Calcutta with 370 coolies, arrived with fever and dysentery on board. The report of the medical officer has been called for, and in the meantime the coolies have been landed at a well-selected encampment formed for them about four miles from this camp, where they will be carefully attended to. I regret that 45 of these men died in the passage and that 76 are still ill. It is to be hoped that fresh air and the removal from the confinement of shipboard will soon restore the latter to health.

9. The organization of the Land Transport Corps progresses satisfactorily. Since the date of my last report, the whole of the first instalment of elephants brought from Bombay have been landed and are now doing very useful work.

10. Two hundred and sixty mules arrived from Suez, and two vessels are daily expected, which together will bring 300 more. After the departure of the latter there will still be about 1,000 animals waiting at Suez for shipment.

11. Two hundred and fifty pack bullocks have also been received since the date of my last despatch.

12. It appears that no horses can be purchased in that part of the highland of Abyssinia to which we have approached. Ponies are to be obtained, but they are very small. With the object of remounting the troopers dismounted by the horse epidemic, I felt it my duty, pending the sanction of the Governor of Bombay, to orde

Captain Arbuthnot, of the 14th Hussars, to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Suez to purchase in Egypt some horses as cavalry remounts. I felt it necessary to do this because, in the first place, horses are cheaper in Egypt than in India, and secondly because there is considerable difficulty in obtaining transport for horses from Bombay to Ammesley Bay, while plenty of ships fitted for horses are running constantly between Zoulla and Suez. These horses are urgently required, and if I am not able to obtain them by the time that the force advances a very large proportion of the excellent troopers of the 3rd Cavalry will be unavailable for any proper duty, nor without these horsemen will the army be provided with that proper proportion of cavalry which I consider necessary.

13. The Governor of Bombay will be kept constantly informed by telegraph of the purchases made.

14. As the departure of the steamer which will carry this despatch has been delayed for a few hours I am enabled to add that yesterday evening I received a telegram which announced that the telegraph has been advanced four miles and a half beyond Koomayloo in the direction of Sooroo.

15. At the present time all troops in camp are being employed as working parties. I have found it necessary to fix the working pay of all native regiments at an uniform rate of two annas per diem. The well at Undul is to-day yielding a steady supply of water and is producing at the rate of five tons per day. Norton's wells have wherever employed proved themselves to be of great value.

16. Every effort is being made to provision Senafé as rapidly as possible. All transport which can be made available or can be spared from other duties is devoted to this object.

17. The health and spirits of the troops are excellent. The enclosed distribution return shows where the troops are quartered and details the sick. Of these, 49 are Europeans, 156 native fighting men, and 123 followers. Among the two former there are no serious cases. The latter are chiefly men who have been brought from Aden and parts of the Red Sea as muleteers and camel drivers, and were before their arrival predisposed to ulcers. Since disembarkation the sores have developed themselves. I have made arrangements for all the bad cases being returned to their homes.

18. A steam crane has arrived in harbour, it will now be disembarked and will be of good value in the landing of stores and supplies.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 8.

Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India
(received 8th February 1868).

Commander-in-Chief's Office,

Head Quarters, Zoulla, 16th January 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

1. Copies of despatches of 11th and 12th inst.
2. Copy of telegram of 12th inst.
3. Memorandum to Captain Willoughby, Assistant Commissary-General, of the 12th inst.

1. I have the honour to enclose copies of the documents (noted in the margin) which were forwarded by an Egyptian steam transport on the 12th instant, addressed to the Consul-General in Egypt, for transmission to you.

2. The health of the troops continues very good.

Of the British there are 71 sick; of the native troops 140; but there are no serious cases amongst them.

3. All available troops are employed on railway and other works.

4. The Scinde Horse are being pushed up to Senafé by detachments in order to preserve their horses from disease, and the Punjab Pioneers have gone forward for working purposes, but the remaining troops are held at Zoulla, while all our transport is engaged in carrying up provisions to Senafé.

5. The transport "Burimah" has been (through the exertion of the navy) brought safely into harbour.

6. The railway material and tools with which she is laden will enable us to push forward our works more rapidly.

7. The transport animals improve both in health and general efficiency.

8. I enclose copies of the latest letters from the captives, dated December 23rd, and of a letter from the Wagshum Gobazyé.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp, Zoulla,

12th January 1868.

Memorandum.

Captain Willoughby, Assistant Commissary-General, Bombay Army, on special duty at Suez, is directed to purchase immediately (10,000) ten thousand horse jhools (or blankets) of the kind described in the accompanying memo., or as near a substitute as may be procurable, for the purpose of clothing the mules on the highlands of Abyssinia. Also 5,500 horse buckets of canvas or leather (five thousand and five hundred).

Such of these articles as cannot be purchased and dispatched within one month from receipt of the order, to be applied for from England, to the Secretary of State in the form of the enclosed telegram.

Captain Willoughby will not await the collection of the whole quantity to dispatch them, but will send instalments as soon as ready by every opportunity.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 8.

From Captain M. W. Willoughby to The Right Honble., the Secretary of State for India.

I AM directed by Sir Robert Napier to request that _____ may be forwarded to
Zoulla, overland, being the balance of an order for _____, not procurable in Egypt.

Enclosures in No. 8.

From Dr. BLANC to General MEREWETHER, dated Magdala, 23rd December 1867.

My dear Colonel,

I hope this will meet you half way. Bob* is coming. Since Monday last he has been plundering Wadda. Waksham, fearful coward, ran away when he heard of the advance of his father's murderer. I expected as much; I said, long ago, that one would give way to the other without fighting, but must give credit to Bob for being the bravest of the two. He advanced naturally, the other retired. How long it will be before we are honoured with our friend's presence I cannot say, he is going round the Giddah, a better road than the direct one. Some say that the end of this week will see him in Dalanto, and the Abyssinian Christmas Day in Magdala. I am often sorry when once my letters have gone to find that I have fallen again into my old practice of giving my opinion about matters that are foreign to me. I never mean to interfere. I write to you as I think, simply because I am well aware that you will not take my gossip for more than it is worth. Being on the spot, and justly well up to Abyssinian tricks by this time, my drop of information may, who knows, be of some little use. At all events, do not be angry with me; my view of the case is, cut out Bob from the Amba if possible, if not, should he retire with his gang within its fortress, surround him so that he cannot give you the slip. Thirdly, should he take us away with him, also surround him, so that should he be inclined to play a trick, he must eventually be caught. No humbug with him; our only chance is great firmness on our part; life for life, nothing else. Should he, as he probably will, ask for terms beforehand, give him none; tell him to kill them if you like, you and your gang we will not allow to escape.

I made the list to-day of the Europeans in his hands, and I find that once all together, he will have a nice lot to amuse himself with, should he be such a fool as to throw away his last chance. We are,—

Adults, Europeans -	-	-	-	-	26
Children, do.	-	-	-	-	7
Half-caste adults, including seven children	22				
Portuguese	-	-	-	-	4
Indians	-	-	-	-	2

61

The worst feature of the case is that Bob is now and then quite mad. Once here, he will find no end of liquor, and may under its influence vent his rage and hatred upon some of us. Once he begins all is over. Every hour, every day is of the utmost importance, so come as fast as possible. A few thousands are more than ample. You have no idea what cowards you have to deal with. I have lent my servant Tagaga to Rassam; he is very useful to us, so send him back as soon as possible; a few Manillas and dollars by him.

Believe me,
H. BLANC.

* The late King Theodore.

From Mr. RASSAM to General MEREWETHER, dated Magdala, 23rd December.

My dear Colonel,

On the 16th I wrote and informed you of all the news. Yesterday I received an answer from W. G. He said he would be delighted to render the British force all the assistance in his power, and he begged me to write and advise you to lose no time in coming up. He told me that he had been communicated with on the same subject by the British authorities with the expedition, and that he had intended to answer you, as soon as he had despatched my messenger, whom I had sent through him on the 16th. With regard to my request about preventing Bob from joining us, he has sent orders to the Dalanta authorities, and told them to hold themselves in readiness to oppose his march to this place, and that as soon as the common enemy descends into the difficult valley of the River Chitta, he would attack him in the rear, and they must at the same time fall on his front. I do not believe that either one party or the other will have the pluck to make an attack. All Abyssinians have a great dread of the Fiend. There is no doubt that W. G.* has moved towards Bale's camp, that is to say, he was going round him, and when my messengers left him on Friday last, the 20th inst., he was within one day's journey of the royal camp. If you do not make haste, we fear that we shall be in Bob's power, when your task will be more difficult than when we are separated from him.

If W. G. behaves properly, and renders you the required assistance, a division of 3,000 men of all arms might easily reach this place from Socota in ten days, or the most fifteen days. If Bob should still be in Wadda, the British force ought to avoid him, and surround this place first. If Bob should be here, and W. G. is in your power, keep him in the background until you gain your object, by the release of all the Europeans. If H. M. will continue his mock friendship with me, there will be no fear of any sad consequence. We may be only bullied, but by God's grace I shall always try and soothe the royal anger.

* * * * * Prideaux, the Rev. Mr. Stern, and Mr. Rosenthal have always tried to assist me and alleviate my anxiety, and if we are doomed to lose our lives in this bondage, I hope that you will acknowledge this testimony publicly. I have no fear at all that everything will yet terminate peacefully, but if God will decree that it should be otherwise I have no doubt that you will be able to find out from different people the course I have always pursued towards the Emperor, and those for whose safety I deem myself responsible.

Excuse this haste, for I am anxious to dispatch these messengers as soon as possible. I will write again in a few days. Please do not send the bearer Dasta Gondaree back hither.

Believe me, &c.

H. RASSAM.

P. S.—Please pay each of the messengers their usual wages of 20 dollars each, and pay Dasta Gondaree 23 (twenty-three) dollars, which I have received from him here.

No. 9.

From His Excellency Sir Robert Napier, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief in Abyssinia, to the Secretary of State for India (received 8th February 1868).

Sir,

Head Quarters, Camp Mulkutto, 19th January 1868.

I have the honour to forward a distribution return and sketch map of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, as the same stood on the 10th inst.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

* Wagsham Gobazye.

Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

10th January 1868.

DISTRIBUTION of the several Corps of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force on this date.

Corps.	Station.
<i>Royal Artillery.</i>	
G/14, with Armstrong guns - - -	Horses and drivers at Senafé, guns, &c., at Koomaylee.
3/21, with A. battery - - -	Mulkuttoo.
5/21, with B. battery - - -	Ditto.
One Company of Native Artillery, with Mountain Train Battery -	Senafé.
<i>Cavalry.</i>	
3d Sind Horse, detachment - - -	Mulkuttoo.
Ditto, ditto - - - - -	Senafé.
3d Light Cavalry - - - - -	Ditto.
Ditto, detachment, dismounted men	Udoda.
<i>Royal Engineers.</i>	
10th Company, detachment - - -	Undul wells.
Ditto, ditto - - - - -	Senafé, and laying the tele- graph line up the Koomaylo pass.
<i>Sappers and Miners.</i>	
1st Company (Bombay) - - -	Rara Guddy.
2d ditto ditto - - - - -	Sooroo.
3d ditto, ditto - - - - -	Rara Guddy.
4th ditto ditto - - - - -	Sooroo.
G. and H. (Madras) - - - - -	Mulkuttoo.
K. Company (Madras) - - - -	Undul wells.
<i>British Infantry.</i>	
4th King's Own - - - - -	Mulkuttoo.
33d Head quarters, wing - - -	Senafé.
Ditto, detachment - - - - -	En route to Senafé.
<i>Native Infantry.</i>	
3d Regiment - - - - -	Mulkuttoo.
10th ditto - - - - -	Senafé.
Ditto, detachment - - - - -	Rara Guddy.
21st Regiment, ditto - - - -	Undul wells.
23d ditto, Pioneers - - - - -	Mulkuttoo.
Ditto, detachment - - - - -	Koomaylee.
25th Regiment - - - - -	Mulkuttoo.
27th Head quarters, wing - - -	Sooroo.
Ditto, detachment - - - - -	Rara Guddy.



R. PHAYRE, Colonel,
Deputy Quartermaster-General, Abyssinian
Expeditionary Force.

ABYSSINIAN

DISTRIBUTION of the Troops

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir ROBERT NAPIER, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., commanding.

Stations.	Detail.	Royal Artillery.										Cavalry.						
		Number of Batteries.	Officers present.	Non-commissioned Officers, Trumpeters, Gunners, and Drivers.				Horses, exclusive of Officers' Chargers.	Equipment.	Number of Guns.	Detail.	British.						
				Present.	Sick.	Absent.	Total.					Number of Troops.	Officers present.	Non-commissioned Officers, Trumpeters, and Rank and File.				Horses, exclusive of Officers' Chargers.
														Present.	Sick.	Absent.	Total.	
Mulkuttoo, Post No. 1	3/21 R. A. - - - - 5/21 „ - - - - 1 Co. Native Artillery	1 1 -	7 7 -	126 86 4	1 2 -	- 88 4	127 88 -	121 110 -	Moun- tain Train.	6 6 -	3d Sind Horse - 3d Light Cavalry, at- tached to 3d N.I.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
Koomaylee	G/14, detachment, with guns and waggons.	1	4	48	-	-	48	-	Armstrong	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sooroo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mayan or Undul Wells	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rara Guddy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Senafé, Post No. 2.	G 14, detachment - 1 Co. Native Artillery, with Mountain Train.	- 1	2 4	47 81	1 5	- 86	48	H. 122 M. 52	- - -	- - 4	3d Light Cavalry 3d Sind Horse -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	
Udoda and Weah outpost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3d Light Cavalry, dismounted men.	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Moving in the district	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	-	4	24	392	9	-	401	M. 283 H. 122	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Percentage of Sick in District:

British:		
Artillery	-	1.27
Cavalry	-	-
Infantry	-	4.43
Natives	-	3.41

Abstract:

Officers	-	175
British Non-commissioned Officers and Rank and File	-	1,969
Native Commissioned ditto, ditto, ditto	-	5,249
Horses	-	608
Artillery Mules	-	283

EXPEDITION.

composing the Force in Abyssinia.

Camp Mulkutto, 10th January 1868.

Cavalry.						Infantry.												Remarks.			
Native.						British.								Native.							
Number of Troops.	Officers present.	Commissioned, Non-commissioned Officers, Trumpeters, and Rank and File.				Horses exclusive of Officers' Chargers.	Detail.	Number of Companies.	Officers present.	Non-commissioned Officers, Drummers, and Rank and File.				Number of Companies.	Officers present.	Commissioned, Non-commissioned Officers, Drummers, and Rank and File.					
		Present.	Sick.	Absent.	Total.					Present.	Sick.	Absent.	Total.			Present.	Sick.		Absent.	Total.	
3	2	160	14	-	174	162	{ 4th King's Own Regiment - - - - - 3d N. I. - - - - - 23d P. I. Pioneers - - - - - 25th N. I. - - - - - G. and H. Co. Madras Sappers and Miners. - - - - -	10	30	611	40	84*	1	10	11	-	-	-	-	-	* 66 attached to 3/21 R.A. 18 on duty at Zoula.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	636	32	12	710	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	647	-	-	647	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	609	29	65	703	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	244	10	-	254	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	{ 23d Pioneers, detachment - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	96	-	-	96	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	117	-	-	117	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	{ 2d Co. Sappers and Miners - - - - - 27th Reg. Beloochees - - - - - 4th Co. Sappers - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	433	16	-	449	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	121	1	-	122	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	{ 10th Co. Royal Engineers - - - - - K. Co. Madras Sappers - - - - - 21st Reg. N. I., detachment - - - - -	-	-	21	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	126	-	-	126	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	89	-	-	89	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	{ 1st Co. Sappers - - - - - 3d " " " - - - - - 10th N. I., detachment - - - - - 27th " " " - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	105	1	-	106	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	120	-	-	120	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	66	-	-	66	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	253	-	-	253	-	
6	9	369	28	-	397	279	{ 10th Co. Royal Engineers - - - - - 33d Foot - - - - - 10th N. I. - - - - -	1	4	57	6	1	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	41	4	-	45	45	-	6	17	445	22	-	467	7	9	588	38	5	631	-	
-	-	47	-	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33d Foot - - - - -	4	13	353	5	-	358	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	En route to Senafé.
9	12	628	46	-	674	486	-	21	64	1,487	73	85	1,645	48	65	4,280	127	82	4,480	-	

Deaths in District :

British :					
Artillery	-	-	-	-	-
Cavalry	-	-	-	-	-
Infantry	-	-	-	-	3
Natives	-	-	-	-	5

No. 10.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 8th February 1868).

Right Honourable Sir,

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Zoulla, 20th January 1868.

Looking to the possibility of more mules for transport purposes being required in Abyssinia, I have requested the Officer commanding the Mule Depôt at Suez to continue there, pending the result of this reference to you.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Political Intelligence from the 8th to the 15th January 1868.

Camp, Zoola, 15th January 1868.

Mr. Wurka Wenké was sent from Senafé on the 8th January, and arrived at Zoola on the 11th, when he was presented to His Excellency Sir Robert Napier. He brought no fresh news. His master, Prince Kassai, was still at Adowa; he confirmed the reports of Theodorus having reached Wadela, on his way to Magdalla, and that Wagshum Gobaze was near Lalibella, watching Theodorus; also, that the Delanta rebel would oppose his further advance.

On the morning of the 13th, letters were received from Mr. Rassam and Dr. Blanc, up to the 23d December. Copies have been submitted.

The messengers confirmed the previous tidings, as to the position of Theodorus and Wagshum Gobaze.

On the afternoon of the 13th, Idiis and Othman, brothers, and Naibs of Arkito, who have been most useful since the troops first landed, and whose influence over the Shoho tribe has been most beneficially exerted, also four of the Shoho Chiefs, who have joined in the convention for the protection of convoys, &c., proceeding to highlands, and who have behaved well, were presented to His Excellency, and received suitable presents, with the expression of his approval.

On the morning of the 14th, a letter arrived from Wagshum Gobaze. (Copy, as also of reply to be sent, is appended.)

The Governor of Massowah, Hussein Beg, having failed to act in the cordial manner with the English authorities, as directed by His Highness the Viceroy, a formal complaint against him,—with request that he may be changed to some other place, another being sent in his stead, who would work more unanimously,—was sent to His Excellency Abdool Kadir Pacha, who has been deputed by His Highness to see that every assistance would be rendered to the army. His Excellency replied that he would forward the complaint at once to His Highness the Viceroy.

His Excellency Abdool Kadir Pacha invited His Excellency Sir Robert Napier to an entertainment on board the Egyptian frigate "Ibrahamerah," which included all the Chief Officers and Heads of Departments of the Force, and the Officers of the Prussian and Italian armies who were here.

W. L. MEREWETHER,
Brigadier-General,
On special Duty.

No. 1.

Letter of Dajazmaj Gobazé, Head of the Chiefs, to reach the Chief of the British Army.—

* This is said to mean, that it was not expedient to publish it then, but when Wagshum Gobazi heard that the army was really coming, he would publish it.

W. L. MEREWETHER,
Brigadier-General.

Very well; how are you, till we will meet? When you like my friendship, I too am not averse to have your friendship. Now I am preparing (going to make) war. Your proclamation has not pleased.* When the man I am sending to you comes back, then I will publish it.

On the 11th of Tehsas (21st December 1867).

No. 2 (Reply).

4th January 1868.

Your letter has been received, and submitted to His Excellency General Sir Robert Napier, Commander-in-Chief of the English Army, who is here. He desires me to tell you that he is coming with the army, and desires your friendship; and, if you would arrange that supplies of corn, flour, and ghee should be collected in your country for his army, he will be greatly pleased,

Everything used by the army will be paid for; he would be glad if you would publish his proclamation throughout your country.

I wrote to you a few days ago, saying the army was coming. I trust the letter reached and found you in good health.

I salute, &c.,

W. L. MEREWETHER,

Brigadier-General.

No. 11.

Dr. BLANC to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 19th December 1867.

Your very kind letter of the 1st and 9th October has quite cheered me up. I was beginning to give way to despair, and fancied that so many objections to an invading army would be made that the idea would at the eleventh hour be given up for some new absurdity. * * * * * With a Napier, a Staveley, a Merewether, marching to the rescue, I feel the utmost contempt for Bob and anything he can do. Still, if we can postpone *le quart d'heure de Robelais*, so much the better. I have no ambition to see, or rather to feel, the clever way in which Ras Meshisha performs the quadruple amputation, so will take the liberty (your long friendship and kindness giving me the necessary courage) to propose a plan for our deliverance.

The "Corps d'Armée" sent to Abyssinia is in all respects a most splendid one, if anything, you have "de trop;" why not then spare a little of your surplus and prevent Bob from coming here; nothing easier. A thousand or twelve hundred would not only check him in his advance upon this place, and would be more than ample for the poltroons on this Amba, say, 800 Cavalry, 4 guns, and 300 European Infantry, well mounted on mules, no incumbrances, a dashing commander, the whole sent in advance from Addigerat, or some other point, through Yedjan as the best route, would turn our kind host, and the ultimate result would be not only agreeable for ourselves, but you would have the pleasure of seeing the whole enterprise crowned with success, and Bob once stripped of his trump card, begging for pardon and a quiet home in the Aden jail.

Bob is in Checho still, some say making roads for his waggons. If by the end of the month he reaches Zebite or Wadela (some say he is there already), he will still have to cross the valleys of the Yiddah and Bechelo, a work of immense labour, considered by every one impossible for him in his present reduced condition, burdened as he is with a great amount of baggage and heavy guns. What we fear is that he will pitch his camp in Wadela, come here with a few men, and carry us away with him. He will then make some exorbitant demand or foolish request to the Commander-in-Chief through Rassam, as he imagines our worthy envoy to be a kind of younger brother of the Queen, and that to spare the life of her Benjamin she will do anything. Before long he would find out his mistake, and every one expects that he would vent his rage and disappointment on us, and run away to the low country. Once in Kowara or in the Shankalla country, he will be quite safe, a second Nana Sahib, always supposed to be dead, but always turning up somewhere. Bob cannot and will not trust. You will never persuade him that, once in the power of England, he will not be executed, possibly previously tortured to pay off old scores. Not only our own lives but also those of the Europeans in his camp depend on our being away from him. He would not kill the workmen if he had not first killed us, but retire before the invading army and try to come to terms, always, in the meanwhile, keeping out of the way, in short, he will never be desperate till there is blood between him and us. The flying column I mentioned would reach this place before Bob knew even of its existence,—probably save all the Europeans, certainly our batch; it would meet with no opposition, if it did it would not only be sufficient to meet any eventuality, but even to conquer the whole of Abyssinia. You will not be long before you come to the same conclusion as myself with regard to the cowardice of the natives, and you will soon, I am afraid, be disgusted with their run-away tactics. Wagshum Gobaze would willingly help you, nothing he would like more than to have a shy at Bob; he would have crushed him long ago if he was not as big a coward as (not the majority) but the mass of his countrymen. The Magdala gossips state that Bob was lately attacked by the peasants of Checheo, Begemder, and Zebite; that they took his guns. Bob retired within the fence, and fired on the rebel Chief, missed him, but killed his horse; this put an end to the battle. Bob caught a few of

the rebels on that or some other occasion, he pegged them to the ground and drove his waggon over them. The latest about the Abyssinian braves, Bob and Gobaze, is rather amusing. It appears that last rainy season a runaway Chief from the Imperial camp took service under Gobaze, he was appointed Shum of Zebite, but he shortly after governed (that is, plundered) in his own name and on his own account. Last week Aba Damian, the Chief in question, burnt a lot of the grass on the plateau of Zebite, and pitched two large white tents. Gobaze, who was moving in that direction, perceiving the smoke and white tents, thought that Bob was encamped there, and retreated as fast as he could. On the other hand, Bob, from below, at the sight of the smoke and the tents, believing that his blood enemy had at last picked up courage and was marching against him, retraced his steps towards Aibankab. It is most probably only a shave, but it shows what even Abyssinians think of the bravery of their rulers.

Here all well, very anxious about your next move, and longing for the day when we will awake at the sound of the bugles down at Salamjee.

H. BLANC.

P. S.—Bob is just arrived at Wadela.

No. 12.

Magdala, Abyssinia,
December 1867.

My dear Colonel Merewether,

We have got the good news, and are all as proud as peacocks.

The only danger lies in delay. There should not be an hour's delay in getting at us by a side route.

What we have to fear is, first, that the natives may kill us, in the hope that this may deter you from coming up. Secondly, that the King may do the same, and trust to his heels to keep out of your way.

I hope you will forestal him, however, and must trust to you to do so.

I can't tell you how I long for freedom.

This want of exercise, and constant annoyance, is killing me, or rather was. I shall fight on now, however, please God.

I dare say Blanc has told you something about this; you may be sure he has not said too much. But I won't trouble you about these things, especially as you are doing your best for us, and a few weeks must bring our troubles to an end, one way or the other.

I have been very ill lately, excess of blood on the head, and had a paroxysm of fever yesterday.

Altogether, it is high time that I should be out of this horrid position.

Blanc is very kind, but what can he do? I want quiet, good food, and the use of my limbs, and these are just the things he cannot give me.

To you, like me, life is made up of hit and miss. This seems to have been a hit. My next must be in to the of old Rose; he was a good old man; do you know it?

I send you Semma. Pray pay him handsomely. I have lent another of my people to Rassam. Good bye, dear Colonel, for the present.

Kindly send the to Hertslet.

Yours ever,

C. D.

(presumed to be from
Consul Cameron.)

No. 13.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God; letter sent from Dejazmaj Cassa, Head of the Chiefs of Abyssinia, to reach Colonel Merewether, Chief of the Army. How have you been? Mr. Rassam and Consul Cameron have sent to me a good word of salute, which gave me great pleasure. I am now reflecting upon doing some good thing for these unjustly imprisoned men, and I like if they are delivered. As to you, I will not fail in doing all in my power.

Written on the 18th Tehsas (December 28th, 1867).

L. L.

No. 14.

8th January 1868.

The political news up to date is as follows :—

Tadela Gwalo, ruler of Godjam, is dead. Before dying, he nominated a younger son his successor. This arrangement is unsatisfactory to the elder sons; they will contest it, and disorders in Godjam will follow. This will not materially affect the British expedition, if at all, Godjam being far away to the westward.

No letters have been received from Magdala since those up to 16th December, copies of which have been forwarded.

Theodorus is steadily working towards Magdala now, but slowly, in consequence of his guns and heavy baggage. He was in Salicet, and would appear to be trying to reach Magdala through the lower part of Lasta.

Wagshum Gobaze is watching him from Lasta. He sent a verbal message to me, to the effect that, if he saw a favourable opportunity, he would attack Theodorus. That is, if he caught Theodorus in a difficulty.

Gobaze is at "Jyela" (*vide* Keith Johnston's map). Though vastly superior in force, it is doubted, by those best informed, that he will venture to attack or even approach Theodorus. He had received my letter, with copies of His Excellency's proclamation, and had given publicity to the latter.

Prince Kassa is still at Adowa, and nothing at present has occurred to disturb the friendly feeling displayed hitherto by him and by the people of his province.

An express has been sent to Murcha Worki calling him down from Senafé to this. He should be here about the 11th instant.

W. L. MEREWETHER.

No. 15.

General Orders by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General
Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.S.I., K.C.B.

Adjutant-General's Office, Head Quarters,
on board Her Majesty's Ship "Octavia,"
Annesley Bay, 3d January 1868.

I. Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier assumes personal command of the troops in Abyssinia this day.

Sir Robert Napier congratulates the advanced force on the progress made in the expedition by the establishment, in spite of great difficulties, of a firm footing at Senafé, on the high land of Abyssinia.

The Commander-in-Chief has already acknowledged the services of the reconnoitering party, which have been marked by the greatest energy and intelligence.

Two years' experience of the command of the Bombay Army, and of the high military spirit which animates it, prepared Sir Robert Napier to expect the excellent example set by the advanced force under Colonel Field.

From the moment of their landing, they have been indefatigable in promoting the success of the operations by their good conduct, and zealous labour in opening roads and preparing the way for the Army.

Sir Robert Napier is confident that every soldier in the force appreciates the honour of having been selected to carry out the commands of Her Majesty the Queen of England, and that neither hardships nor dangers will arrest it in pursuit of the objects of the expedition—the release of our countrymen detained in a painful captivity, and the vindication of the dignity of Her Majesty's empire.

By order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief,

W. E. MACLEOD, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Acting Deputy Adjutant-General,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

No. 16.

General Order by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General
Sir ROBERT NAPIER.

Adjutant-General's Office,
Head Quarters, Camp Zoulla,
7th January 1868.

II. Sir Robert Napier, after a personal inspection of the works carried out at Zoulla, performs a very grateful duty in recording publicly the credit due to the Engineer Department under Lieutenant-Colonel Wilkins, Chief Engineer, Captain Goodfellow, Field Engineer, and the Companies of Bombay Sappers, for the great progress made in converting a desert shore, at first view utterly devoid of resources, into a very convenient port and depôt, by the construction of an excellent stone pier, store sheds, and other works, which would have been creditable under very favourable circumstances.

In these labours, the most valuable assistance has been afforded by the Senior Naval Officer, Captain Edye, and the Officers and men of the ships under his command, in maintaining a supply of condensed water from the shipping under great difficulties, the erection of condensers on shore, and aiding all departments to the utmost extent of their resources.

The labours of the Sanitary Officer, Dr. Lumsdaine, and of the Commissariat Officer, Major Mignon, have been equally important and praiseworthy.

The Commander-in-Chief is greatly indebted to Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, second in command, for having combined and directed the energies of all departments, so as to produce the present condition of well regulated order.

The general progress made could only have been accomplished by the hearty and unanimous devotion of all officers, and their departments, for which His Excellency desires to express his warm approbation.

By order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief,

W. E. MACLEOD, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Acting Deputy Adjutant-General,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

No. 17.

Quartermaster-General's Journal, from 9th to 13th December 1867.

Senafé, 13th December 1867.

Through the aid of one of the head men at Senafé (Shoom Oomar), whom I have

The Shooms of a tribe are similar as to position,
&c., to the Patels of Indian villages.

entertained on a salary of 10 dollars per
ensem from the 5th instant, I am
obtaining information that enables me

to carry on the survey for some miles round Senafé.

During the last two or three weeks, since we approached the highlands at Tekonda and Senafé, I have once or twice endeavoured to obtain a messenger to deliver the letter given to me by the Rev. Dr. Wilson, Bombay, to the address of Messrs. Gabree and Meertcha Worke, the Abyssinians who, a few years ago, were educated in the Free Church of Scotland Mission School, Bombay.

Through fear of Kassai, the new ruler of Tigré, and the consequences of being apprehended as bearers of letters from the English to any Abyssinian subject, I could not induce any reliable person to undertake the mission. One man who came from Adowa, with mules for sale, to our camp at Mulkutto, offered to take charge of the letters and deliver them, but as I did not know him, or rather could not obtain any reliable information regarding him, I declined to entrust him with the duty, lest I should compromise Messrs. Gabree and Meertcha and their families, as, for aught I know, the trader would have taken the letters direct to Prince Kassai.

Our first reconnoissance of Senafé, and one flying visit to Tekonda, evidently had the effect of inducing Prince Kassai to open communication with us, which, so long as we remained at a distance from the highlands, were withheld. I was, therefore, agreeably surprised at Rayraguddy, on the 5th instant, to find that Mr. Meertcha himself had been sent with confidential letters from the Prince to Colonel Merewether,

and I had the pleasure of myself delivering Dr. Wilson's letters to him, and making his acquaintance.

He accompanied us next day (6th) to Senafé, and stayed one day in our camp after our arrival. I trust that Prince Kassai will accede to Colonel Merewether's request, that he may be allowed to return to us, to remain attached to the Intelligence Department, for which he is eminently adapted by his accurate knowledge of English, and his extensive acquaintance with Abyssinian history resources, both past and present.

His own sympathies and those of his family are with us.

We therefore hope soon to welcome his return.

This morning early a party of us visited the high peak at the south-west extremity of Mount Suera, about five miles distant from Senafé, for the purpose of surveying the country, and taking the bearings of distant points.

In a seaward direction, the low country was shrouded in a dense haze, so that the sea was not visible.

The highest peak of the mountain bore 84° N.E., two or three miles further than that on which we stood, but it having taken us three hours to reach our point, and not knowing how long it would take us to return to camp, we could not spare time to go further.

I beg now to correct a mistake in my Journal of 7th November, when we first visited Rayraguddy, and saw Senafé from a distance of five miles, but did not visit it.

We thought from the view we then had of Mount Suera and Senafé that the high isolated rocks of the latter, and the grey and red masses of rock that cap the table of the former, were granite. On close inspection, however, the whole geological formation of the table is sandstone, similar to that found at Tekonda.

Mount Suera has a very extensive table, and is very prettily wooded in the ravines and on the hills. We found wild lavender, wild violets, and a very beautiful kind of moss hanging from the juniper trees.

The tract of country belongs to the Gasso tribe of Shohos, who graze their flocks and herds on the summit and sides of the mountains.

The boiling point made it 8,900, I have been informed. Pocket aneroid, 8,281.

We found spring water in pools on the high level we attained, viz., 8,281 feet above the sea, but it was not flowing.

The highest peak that we saw, as above referred to, may be about 9,000 feet.

It only took us $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to return to Senafé; the descent is, in some parts, very rough and precipitous.

Most of us rode on horseback the greater part of the way. Horses seem to get over the worst ground nearly as well as mules. At all events, during our travels, we have only found it necessary to dismount at very bad parts, which a horse may be led over with safety, if he be allowed to choose his own way of managing it.

On our return to camp, about 3 p.m., received letters from Mulkutto, announcing the arrival of Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B., on the 6th instant, and the General Order of that date, dissolving the reconnoitring party of Officers.

Better postal arrangements are required between Posts No. 1 and 2, but it is very difficult at first to instil anything like order and regularity with those wild hill people.

11th December.—Rode out on the Chemaysane direction, on the Antalo road, this morning, to determine the site for a large camp, and define the limits of Post No. 2. The result of the reconnoissance was most satisfactory.

As soon as the place can be prepared, it will be seen that the position commands the only three approaches from the Abyssinian direction, south and west to the head of the Senafé pass.

It also commands any approaches that may exist from the south-west. The soil is hard and sandy, generally overlying a substratum of sandstone rock.

The levels of high ground will be taken.

There is ample room on gently sloping even ground for a considerable force, but, owing to the strength of the position, a weak brigade of all arms could hold it successfully against considerable bodies of Abyssinians.

A position with such good sanitary capabilities as this possesses cannot fail, I think, to be a very healthy one, the ground to be occupied being elevated, open, well drained, and ventilated, and having a good water supply.

The climate is at present unexceptionable. Thermometer 40° at night, and for an hour or two during the day 70° to 73° . The sun is sometimes felt to be hot from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. The steady cool breeze, however, in a great measure neutralizes its

effects. Light clothing is pleasant when walking in the sun, but, at other times, warm clothing is essentially necessary.

The nights are *very cold*, and, were rain to fall, we fear that the camp followers would suffer greatly.

The survey of Senafé will occupy some days. I purpose, however, in a day or two, surveying back to Tekonda along the north-east table of the highlands, so as to complete the survey from Uddoda by the Haddus to Tekonda and Senafé, in case of that line being required for troops.

Supplies at Senafé.

Forage and water at Senafé are abundant, and cattle, sheep, and goats may be had in large numbers.

Firewood is only to be had in any quantity on the hill sides below the table $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles distant.

The only grain to be had at present is barley, of which the supply immediately around Senafé has been purchased. More is expected from Agame in a few days, as some dealers from whom we purchased mules have promised to bring some.

Mr. Meertcha Worke informed us that, as soon as Prince Kassai publicly proclaims his friendly disposition towards us, many traders who are now awaiting some such manifest guarantee for their safety will not hesitate to bring us supplies. Thus the advance to Senafé is already producing the desired results.

The locusts appear to have eaten the greater proportion of the crops in the neighbourhood during the last two years, hence the scarcity.

Amongst the hill tribes the locusts are commonly used as food. They are roasted till quite parched, then pounded and filled in kid or goat skins for general use, especially when travelling.

These nomades appear to live chiefly on milk and ghee, and occasionally goat's flesh. They grow no rice or other grain, and never obtain any, except by purchase, from Massowa or some of the Abyssinian markets nearest the watershed.

The Christian and Mussulman tribes inhabiting Senafé, Tekonda, and other places on the watershed are not Abyssinians, though Abyssinian subjects. They seem to be very poor, notwithstanding that the plains included within their territory have every appearance of fertility and of being partly cultivated.

The inhabitants of the watershed.

R. PHAYRE, Colonel,
Deputy Quartermaster-General,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure in No. 17.

DISTRIBUTION of the several Corps of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force on this date
Mulkatoo, 8th January 1868.

Corps.	Stations.
<i>Royal Horse Artillery.</i>	
C/E., Royal Horse Artillery	Not left Bombay.
<i>Royal Artillery.</i>	
G/14	Horses and drivers at Senafé; guns, &c., at Koomayloo, awaiting construction of road up the pass.
3/21	At Mulkatoo.
5/21	Ditto.
3/25	Due from Bengal.
<i>Naval Brigade.</i>	
Rocket Battery	At Mulkatoo, awaiting orders.

Corps.	Stations.
<i>Native Artillery.</i>	
No. 1 Company - - - -	At Senafé with Mountain Train.
<i>Royal Engineers.</i>	
No. 10 Company - - - -	Telegraphists at Koomayloo. Well-sinkers at Mayan wells. Photographers at Senafé. Remainder at ditto.
<i>Sappers and Miners.</i>	
Head Quarters - - - -	At Senafé.
1st Company - - - -	Ditto.
2d ditto - - - -	Ditto.
3d ditto - - - -	Ditto.
4th ditto - - - -	Upper Sooroo.
<i>Madras Sappers.</i>	
G. Company - - - -	At work at Mulkatoo under Commanding Engineer.
H. ditto - - - -	
K. ditto - - - -	
With 10th Company, Royal Engineers, on telegraph and well-digging work.	
<i>British Cavalry.</i>	
Wing, 3d Dragoon Guards - - - -	Not embarked yet.
<i>Native Cavalry.</i>	
3d Bombay Light Cavalry - - - -	Senafé; 40 dismounted men at Uddoda outpost, with Commissariat stores, &c.
3d Sind Horse - - - -	Two troops arrived, one at Senafé, the other disembarked this day; the remainder of the Regiment is <i>en route</i> to Abyssinia.
10th Bengal Cavalry - - - -	Due from Bengal.
12th ditto - - - -	Ditto.
<i>British Infantry.</i>	
4th King's Own Regiment (1st Battalion)	At Mulkatoo awaiting orders.
33d Regiment - - - -	At Senafé, and <i>en route</i> to it.
26th Cameronians - - - -	Not embarked.
45th Regiment - - - -	Ditto.
<i>Native Infantry.</i>	
2d Grenadiers - - - -	Not embarked.
3d Regiment - - - -	At Mulkatoo.
5th Light Infantry - - - -	Not embarked.
8th Regiment - - - -	Ditto.
10th ditto - - - -	At Senafé.
18th ditto - - - -	Not embarked.
21st ditto, 1 Company (Marine Battalion)	Undul wells, digging wells.
23d Bengal Pioneers - - - -	At Mulkatoo.
25th Light Infantry - - - -	Ditto.
27th Regiment (1st Beloochees) - - - -	Upper Sooroo and Raray Geddy.
One Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry -	Due from Bengal, number not known.

R. PHAYRE, Colonel,
Deputy Quartermaster-General,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

No. 18.

Demi-official note from Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER to the Governor of Bombay
(received 7th February 1868).

Right Honourable Sir,

Camp Zulla.

I landed this morning at Zulla, having found it convenient to remain on board the "Octavia" for a few days to receive the reports of the heads of departments. I must say that the progress made here appeared very great indeed, considering that the place was utterly without resources when the first party landed. An excellent pier of stone, broad enough for a double line of rail, has been all but completed, and is in hourly use day and night, a second pier is progressing, but will not be finished under a fortnight.

The skeletons of several Commissariat sheds are erected, and one is roofed, but the sides having been omitted in sending them, they do not give the full protection necessary. I have instructed Colonel Wilkins to complete the sides of temporary materials.

The stores are conveyed away from the pier by a very serviceable tramway, the railway is laid for about two miles. Colonel Wilkins says he is delayed for want of plant.

The Land Transport is improving, but the Egyptian muleteers are, I fear, not improvable, as they have taken to carrying off the mules and their loads. Colonel Merewether hopes these men, 25 in number, will be recovered, but it is clear we cannot have any dependence on them in an enemy's country. We must, therefore, look to the men whom your Excellency may send from Bombay. The minimum quantity of carriage, numbered in your Excellency's memorandum of the 26th August, 10,000 mules and 5,000 camels are now represented by about . . . mules and camels, of which . . . are now engaged in carrying supplies to Senafé. I do not intend to send any more troops forward until I have accumulated sufficient supplies at Senafé; that operation, which I hoped would have been performed before my arrival, could not take place owing to the backward state of the Land Transport. It is now steadily going on, and, as fresh animals come into work they will be put to the same task. The epidemic amongst the mules still continues, although it is less virulent than before, owing to a better supply of water, but still its ravages are very serious, and make me very desirous for the arrival of pack bullocks which were at Bombay, but of which I trust a large number are on their way here. They do not suffer, and would be invaluable for the first 40 miles of the journey to Senafé. The camels are very poor and small, and do not look as if they could do much work. Of the local supply of 8,000 camels and 3,000 mules, which Colonel Merewether expected by the middle of December, as reported in his Letter No. . . , we have actually present 1,900 camels and 400 mules, of which about 750 camels are dead or unaccounted for; 450 are sick from bad condition on the voyage and early work. About 2,200 are said to be on the coast at or near Berbera, and for these I am sending shipping. There are also 600 mules of Abyssinia said to be ready for delivery. Major Warden is steadily getting his establishment into work; forage is conveyed to Koomayloo, 14 miles, in carts, other stores on camels, from thence, until the road is passable easily for camels, mules are stationed in relays according to the plan proposed in my memorandum of the 31st August, but as soon as it can be managed I desire to get the transport of all stores up to the foot of the Senafé pass on camels and bullocks, so as to remove the mules from the epidemic influence. The animals attacked appear to be best treated with stimulants; many recover, which is not, I believe, the case with glanders. At each station of relay there is an Officer in command and an Assistant Surgeon, also a Commissariat Officer to superintend the regulation of the transit of supplies and all transport with troops.

The demand of the Commissariat is for 5,000 mules, to be kept continually on the transport of supplies. Major Warden has not been able to fulfil this demand entirely, but as more carriage comes in, it will be applied to Commissariat use until our depôts are properly supplied. Except for the necessary garrison of Senafé, and for working purposes, I shall not send any more troops forward until the supplies are sufficiently advanced. There are no doubt many reasons, political and military, in favour of an advanced position, but the more I become acquainted with the resources of this country, the more satisfied I am that for any real and permanent advance we must be independent of them. Until now the post of Senafé was by no means safely provisioned for its own use; there is an advanced point at Addigrat, 37 miles from

Senafé, which I hope soon to occupy, so as to clear the way to it, and I may by the end of this month be established at Antalo, unless the mortality in mules should interrupt my transport of supplies. Working parties are engaged in improving the road to Senafé, which requires to be made easier, but I may say that a substantial progress has been made when our carts work to Koomayloo, 14 miles, and the telegraph is at work between that place and Zoola. Lieutenant St. John reported that his wire had been cut by the Shohos for the sake of the wire, but Brigadier-General Merewether is confident of being able to prevent this in future.

As there is yet not enough Cavalry for a Brigadier-General's command, and as Brigadier-General Merewether's services are required in political duties, I have requested him to perform them.

I have requested Brigadier-General Merewether to write to Prince Kassai, to the effect that I hope when I arrive at Senafé or at Addigrat he would come and pay me a visit, and we can then discuss any proposals he may wish to make, his Agent, the Anglicised Abyssinian gentleman, Mr. Woorkee, who is now with Colonel Field, I have invited to come to see me; his report of the extent of our power may have a good effect. General Merewether's letter will explain that the Queen of England does not desire to interfere at all with the internal affairs of Abyssinia, but to be on friendly terms with the Chiefs and people; the letter will be accompanied with a present, and requests the Prince will order supplies into our camp; the letter will be accompanied also by the Proclamation conveying the assurance that no permanent occupation of any part of Abyssinian territory or interference in Abyssinian affairs is intended by the British Government. The letters of the prisoners at Magdala represent that Prince Menelek had retired to his own country, and that Theodore was making great efforts to get to Magdala. One copy of Lord Stanley's letter had by some means reached Mr. Rassam, who was afraid of the consequences of its delivery, and destroyed it for fear of its being found on him and causing extreme measures against the prisoners. Other copies were sent by other means, and as Mr. Flad wrote that Theodore was greatly exasperated for some cause or other, it seems probable that a copy of Lord Stanley's letter, or possibly the Proclamation, had reached him.

The epidemic has caused a serious loss of horses; of the 3d Cavalry 181 horses have died, but the disease has now ceased in the regiment. Horses that were long in the plains appear to have conveyed it with them. The horses of G-14 were sent up immediately; but four have died, none are sick. The troop of Sindh Horse have not suffered. It is the general opinion of the Veterinary Surgeons that the disease does not affect Senafé, although horses carrying the disease with them die of it there, and Mr. Lamb suggested that if horses could be sent at once without drinking at the first two stages where the water is suspected, and where infected animals have frequented the watering places, they might escape. The experiment is worth trying, although I believe the causes of the disease are as difficult to account for in this as in other cases. Under any circumstances, the disease is a very great misfortune, but we have the most skilful Veterinary Surgeons, and as in many cases they have treated it successfully, we must hope they will keep it under. At Zulla it has been much less fatal since there has been a sufficient supply of water.

In consequence of the losses already sustained, I have sanctioned a proposal of General Merewether's to accept the tender of a German firm to deliver at Suez 1,000 mules and 200 good German or Austrian drivers within a month at 5*l.* a head, drivers at previous rates. Considering all things, the cost of transit and maintenance in Egypt, &c., I think this is a fair offer, and I trust your Excellency will approve of my having agreed to it. We must secure our depôt of supplies on the table land, and delay in effecting it causes a continuance of a much heavier expenditure in many other places. Your Excellency will therefore understand how anxious I am for a relief for our mule carriage in the plains.

I am informed by Colonel Milward that, owing to economical changes in the Egyptian army, a number of excellent remount horses may be had now by the private agency of the British Consul at from 20*l.* to 30*l.* each. Any open purchases in the market would, Colonel Milward thinks, be inexpedient. I have seen several of the horses, which would at Bombay cost from 50*l.* to 80*l.* I have, therefore, requested Colonel Willoughby to communicate privately with the British Consul, and, if the facilities and cheapness should continue, to purchase up to 100 horses, not exceeding 25*l.* as an extreme price, on his being satisfied of their being fit for Light Cavalry or Field Batteries, and on a Veterinary Surgeon's approval. I will send a Cavalry Officer who is a judge of horses to assist. Should your Excellency not approve, I beg you

will telegraph to Colonel Willoughby to suspend action; he will be prepared for it. The horses are of such a superior stamp that the experiment of finding a market in Egypt is worth thinking of. The troops in camp at Zulla, both European and Native, have enjoyed excellent health, and are in the best spirits.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER.

No. 19.

From General Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.

(Received Feb. 12.)

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,

Zoulla, 22nd January 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I had purposed to forward the enclosed memorandum by telegraph, but finding that Parliament does not meet before the 15th February, I have decided to transmit it by post, in order to save the expense of telegraphic communication.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure.

From Sir ROBERT NAPIER, Zoulla, to the Secretary of State for India, London.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,

Zoulla, 20th January 1868.

On the morning of the 4th January news was received at Annesley Bay that Theodore was advancing from Debra Tabor towards Magdalla. This news was dated the 18th December. Theodore was moving with heavy baggage, large and small guns and mortars. Progress was very slow, but by abandoning his guns and heavy baggage he could gain Magdalla in four or five days, and there take refuge in a fortress, which must have considerable strength from its natural position.

It may be asserted that Theodore might have been attacked during his flank march. The above statement shows that this would have been impossible, as he could have been in Magdalla by the 23rd December.

The news of his march did not reach Annesley Bay till the 4th January. Other reasons made an attempt to surprise him on the march impossible. An advanced brigade of Native troops, mustering 1,300 sabres and bayonets, with four mountain guns, was indeed at Senafe on the 4th January. Magdalla is 340 miles from Senafe, 30 days march. They had been urged. Only 36 days bread and flour at Senafe for 1,000 men, and less of other rations. The further supplies which I demanded in September had but just arrived at Annesley Bay, and could only be sent up slowly to Senafe, on account of the crude condition of the land transport, and the failure of the local transport, which we had been led to expect. The cause of its deficiencies will in a great measure be explained by the correspondence on the subject.

-R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,

Commanding Abyssinian Expedition.

No. 20.

From Lieut. Colonel M. DILLON, Military Secretary to Sir R. NAPIER, to the Secretary of State for India.

(Received Feb. 12.)

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,

Zoulla, 23rd January 1868.

Memorandum.

As His Excellency Sir Robert Napier has gone in the direction of hills to make arrangements for the supply of this camp with water, the undersigned ventures to take advantage of a steamer sailing for Suez, in order to forward this memorandum of operations for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India.

His Excellency Sir Robert Napier reported fully to the Secretary of State for India on the 16th January.

Since that date a small detachment of the 23rd Punjab Infantry has been the only addition to the force in Abyssinia. No changes have since the 16th been made in the distribution of the troops, except those mentioned in Sir R. Napier's report of the 16th, namely the Sind Horse have been despatched by half troops, and are moving to Senafé, and a part of the 23rd Punjaubees have been pushed up the pass for working purposes.

The 25th Regiment Native Infantry has moved to Koomayloo, at the entrance of the Pass, to be there employed on the Railway.

Commodore Heath, Commanding Officer, has undertaken the completion of the 2nd or commissariat pier (which has been considerably advanced). The Madras Sappers can in consequence be devoted to the advancement of the railway.

The troops now in Abyssinia, exclusive of sappers and pioneers, muster

British.	Native.
392 R. A.	749 Cavalry, mounted.
1,414 Infantry.	90 Artillery.
	2,900 Infantry.

The health and spirits of the troops continue excellent. There are only 86 British in hospital. Of these the majority are but trivial cases, such as feet cut in bathing. Some troops will be moved to Weeah, in order to lay down the piping by which the water from that place will be brought into this camp. The heavy expenses of condensing, and the pressure upon the shipping, will thus be considerably relieved. The necessity of provisioning Senafé has absorbed all available transport. Every exertion has been made to bring up as large a quantity of commissariat stores as possible to that put on the highland. The result is satisfactory. At present there are at Senafé rations for the men, for the days according to memorandum enclosed.

On the 18th a detachment was pushed forward from Senafé, and occupied Goom-gooma, twelve miles in advance.

Grass has been found in considerable quantities on the highland, and in some of the lateral valleys of the Pass. It is believed that sufficient forage will be here obtained to forage the pack animals engaged in the transport of provisions to Senafé. This will be a great saving, as hitherto the animals have been obliged to carry their forage from Zoulla, and this entailed a great diminution of their valuable load.

At Senafé and in the Pass the troops not required for working parties have been very considerably employed in cutting grass.

Major Grant is proceeding to Adowa, as envoy to Kassa, Prince of Tigre, through whose territory our route must be for 100 miles. There is every reason to hope that Kassa's friendship may be secured, and that hence large supplies may be obtained from his province. His Excellency Sir Robert Napier will meet Major Grant on his return to Adtegrat.

It is intended to push forward a complete brigade of all arms to Antalo.

I have, &c.

M. DILLON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Military Secretary.

Enclosure.

Zoulla, 23rd January 1868.

Supplies at Senafé by last report, 20th instant, were:—

Calculated for 1,000 Europeans.	
Flour	15 days.
Biscuit	26 "
Rice	40 "
Preserved potatoes	110 "
Compressed vegetables	80 "
Salt	20 "
Sugar	16 "
Rum	14 "
Tea	37 "
For 1,000 Natives.	
Rice	69 "
Flour	41 "
Dhall	64 "
Salt	35 "
Ghee	$\frac{1}{2}$ a day.

A quantity of stores must have reached by now; there are many consignments en route. Of ghee there are 27,000 lbs. on the way.

A. LUCAS, Lieut.-Col.,
Deputy Commissary-General.

Mem.—Sir Robert Napier is at the Weah River, 14 miles distant, examining the water supply, with reference to laying down the piping when it arrives. Sir Robert returns in the evening.

Enclosure.

Memorandum for the information of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp, Zoulla,
the 25th January 1868.

As his Excellency Sir Robert Napier, the Commander in Chief, has started for Senafé, the undersigned, by his direction, sends the following information by the outgoing mail.

A brigade of all arms is under orders to march from Senafé to-morrow morning on Antalo. This brigade will consist of a wing of the 33rd Regiment, a wing of the 10th Native infantry, one mountain

battery, a wing of the Scinde horse, and a detachment of sappers. The great difficulty of getting up supplies to Senafé through the almost desert Koomayloo Pass has greatly retarded the advance. This difficulty is being overcome. The organization of the land transport train is daily improving; grass has been found in considerable quantities near Senafé and in some of the mountainous districts. This grass it is hoped will relieve the commissariat of the necessity of transporting forage for the horses at Senafé, and for the pack animals working up the Pass.

There is reason to believe that at Attegerat the country will be found more open, and supplies will then come into our lines more abundantly. At present a large proportion of the cavalry and working parties of the 10th and 33rd regiments are employed in cutting and bringing forage into Senafé, which relieves the commissariat and transport train of this burden.

The inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Senafé have supplied us with grain, but in small quantity. They have, however, carried in forage, and thus aided the accumulation of grass in that place by the troops. The two upper stations of Raraguddy and Undul wells are now supplied with grass from Senafé and the mountains near the Pass. The railway does not progress so rapidly as might be desired. A locomotive has, however, been landed, and, now at work, assists greatly in the landing and removal of commissariat stores.

The greatest zeal and the most excellent disposition prevails throughout the army. Every possible reduction is being made in baggage and followers, so as to render our onward march as light as possible.

The naval brigade has landed, and is encamped on shore.

The two steel mountain batteries, under the command of Colonel Milward, R.A., and the 4th King's Own Regiment, are under orders to march to the high country immediately.

The supply of water at Undul wells has doubled within the last few days, and as additional wells are being sunk it is to be hoped that it may be still further increased.

In order to relieve the commissariat and water supply at this place, as well as the land transport train of any burden which can possibly be avoided, Sir Robert Napier has requested the officer commanding at Aden to detain and land there any cavalry bound for Abyssinia, the 3rd Dragoon Guards excepted. It is hence to be surmised that the two Bengal regiments of cavalry will be landed and encamped in the vicinity of Aden, where General Merewether, late Political Resident at that place, reports an ample supply of water. This step is mainly due to the fact that while the present difficulty of forwarding supplies to Senafé exists it would be unadvisable to accumulate a larger than necessary body of men on the high ground; nor would it be prudent, on account of the epidemic among horses, to retain a mass of cavalry on the plain near the coast. Sir Robert Napier, however, considers that it is urgently necessary to have, as soon as possible, a large force on the high ground; and he intends to send for these regiments as soon as arrangements can be made to receive them.

The telegraph is completed as far as Gooroo.

No political intelligence.

The health of the troops is excellent.

There have been no fresh arrivals.

M. DILLON, Lieut.-Col.,
Military Secretary.

No. 21.

The Deputy Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Under Secretary of State for India. Received 20th February 1868.

Sir,

Bombay Castle, 28th January 1868.

I have the honour to forward ten copies of a Despatch from His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier, dated Zoola (probably the 8th), reporting the progress of his operations in Abyssinia, together with copies of letters from Mr. Rassam, and of two General Orders by His Excellency, dated 3rd and 7th instant, and of a Distribution Return of the Force in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.

JOHN MACDONALD, Major,
Deputy Secretary to Government

Enclosure. (*Vide* No. 18.)

Enclosure.

Mr. RASSAM to Colonel MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 2nd December 1867.

I have detained these messengers for a week, in the hope of writing to you something definite about the movements of Menilek, the new aspirer to the throne of Abyssinia, but as I may have to wait a long time before I can do so, I have determined to send the bearer to-day. As soon as anything important takes place I will despatch other messengers with the news.

Menilek has proclaimed himself emperor, and has come to obtain the crown and throne of the monarchs of Abyssinia, which he will certainly be able to procure, provided he will have a little patience, and invest Magdala properly. Unfortunately the people of this country are not accustomed to storm even the most trumpery fortress, like this mountain; consequently we have no hope of Menilek capturing this place by force of arms, and he can only obtain it by treachery from within, or through starving the garrison, which can easily be done. Last year he besieged a strong fortress in Shoa, which belonged to king Theodorus, and after a short time the garrison was obliged to surrender on account of hunger. Every person who was there is now in the employ of Menilek, and is well

treated. Menilek was detained in the Wallo Galla country for a fortnight, on account of placing a new chief in the government of that country; and as soon as he turned out its queen, Mastru (looking glass), he came hitherward, and reached the edge of the plateau (about five miles to the south-east of this) in the morning of the day before yesterday. I have communicated twice with him, and each time he sent me a polite message, with 100 dollars as a present to buy honey and cows with as a sign of friendship. I also sent to him some calico and silks for shirts on the first occasion, and the last time I presented him with a telescope, with which he has been very much pleased. I have made him to understand that if he managed to obtain our release he would confer a great favour on the British government, and gain their everlasting friendship thereby. He has promised to do his best towards getting us out of prison, and he has thrice sent to say "Be of good cheer." He has pitched, on a plateau opposite Magdala, a large white tent with a red cloth one (which are visible from our compound) as a mark of royalty. It is said that he has with him about 30,000 cavalry, 10,000 lancers of foot, and 2,000 musketeers. He has not yet invested this fortress, but it is believed he will do so in the course of this day. I have sent to beg him to stop all communication between this place and the camp of King Theodorus, because we are afraid that in case his majesty will not be able to come he might send a fiendish order to his satellites here to kill all the prisoners in case of an attack. A few hours after Menilek halted on the opposite plateau; he had the three cannons which are with him fired. All his musketeers were also arranged in ranks opposite the fortress, and they showed the Magdala authorities how well they could perform the file firing, which certainly they did very well. The youthful prince gave a party yesterday to all the starving soldiery of this place, after which there was no end of Abyssinian bragging and bad firing.

The rule of the Wallo Gallas extends about two days further than Lake Haik, and if the troops come that way Menilek will be able to render a great assistance to the field force through his tributaries the Wolloos. I only wish I knew what is taking place on the coast, as I might render some assistance through my friends in this country. The death of the bishop has been of great misfortune to us just now, as he would have been able to render material service to Menilek and to us. Since I last wrote to you on the 17th ultimo, no news has reached us from King Theodorus or from his camp; no one now knows where he is. His adherents report every day that he is within a few miles of the place; but his adversaries say that he is retreating very fast towards the land of his nativity, Guara. About 20 days ago the chiefs of this mountain sent messengers to their master to apprise him of the approach of Menilek to attack this place; but up to to-day no answer has been received. We have not heard from Massowah for three months. M. Munzinger's last letter was dated 2nd September, and yours 12th August. We cannot make out what has detained the messengers. The last messengers who left this place for Massowah on the 11th instant were plundered by the rebels three days hence. Luckily the letters were not lost; and after they proceeded on their journey my agents found out the thieves, and got back everything. Your note I have not yet sent to Mr. Flad. As soon as I find a trustworthy messenger I will forward it by him.

H. RASSAM.

Menilek has removed, but where he is going to is not yet known. The messenger who carries this letter will be able to report about his movements, because it will be known this evening when the messenger halts on the river Bashill.

H.R.

Enclosure.

Mr. RASSAM to Col. MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 11th December 1867.

The reason I am sending so soon down to Massowah is because I want you to be informed of the movements of King Theodorus, and of the return of Menilek, the King of Shoa, to his country. When the last messengers left this for the coast on the 3rd instant, we thought that the Shoa troops moved from before Magdala, for the purpose of descending into the valley, to invest this fortress, but we were sadly disappointed. The first day we were not certain as to their intention, as we thought their departure towards the south was a ruse in order that they might deceive this garrison; but, fore-sooth, the next day it was proved to us that Menilek was retreating towards his country, and this was confirmed by the return of my messenger, with a message from the youthful Sovereign, to the effect that he was obliged to return to his country on account of famine in his camp; but he promised to return with ample provisions in two or three weeks. The general opinion is that we shall never see the Shoa troops again so long as Theodorus is bent on coming here. Menilek informed me that his soldiers had brought no women with them, consequently they had no one to cook and grind corn for them, but he said that when he returns hither he would bring with him every thing necessary for a long stay. I had begged and entreated him not to waste time, but come and invest the place vigorously, as I knew from the general feeling of this garrison, and their disgust with the conduct of their master, that the place would not hold out more than a week, but unfortunately he did not listen to my advice. It is believed that his soldiers got in a funk. He wished me to assist him by gaining over for him one of the great chiefs; but that I told him I could not do until he invested the place properly, when I would then be able to serve him satisfactorily. All those individuals who would have assisted him in opening the gates are now quite disgusted with Menilek's conduct, and now, if he returns, they would be afraid to trust him. Oh, had I only a few thousand dollars in my hands I might manage to do what I like. I ought to have had at least 20,000 dollars with me; but, on the contrary, I am not even able to act hospitably just now. When those few hundred dollars came in October I thought money would be pouring in afterwards, but alas everything has come again to a standstill. It is now more than three months since I have heard from M. Munzinger, though I have no less than five batches of messengers down at Massowah.

It is generally rumoured here that British troops had left Massowah for this, and yesterday one of the great chiefs informed me that he had heard some infantry, some English soldiers, had already reached Tigré.

On the 7th instant messengers arrived here from King Theodorus, and through a little generosity (on my part) they brought me letters from Mr. Flad, informing me of the sad goings on in the Royal

camp. I send you these letters (three in number) through M. Munzinger, for your perusal. The messengers left the Emperor in Jejaho, about 50 miles this side of Debra Tabor; and if his Majesty travels in the same rate hitherwards as he has done for the last two months, he will not be here before March next. It is believed that he is doing his best to join us, in order that he might have me in his power, in case British troops arrive, when he thinks he will be able to make his terms with the General. Can you believe it, that no sooner the inhabitants of the large districts of Zabeet and Wadala heard of the approach of the great Theodorus, than they left their houses and cultivation, and went to seek shelter in the fastness of Lasta. Wagshum Gobazye, who is said to be with about 40,000 troops within a day's journey from Wadala, is too great a coward to protect his own subjects at Wadala. These rebels can only plunder the poor peasants. W. G. has been bragging for years that he intended to fight his great foe and blood enemy Theodorus (who had killed his father in cold blood,) but no sooner he hears of the approach of the great butcher of human beings than he begins to tremble. Unless anything extraordinary takes place, I shall not again send down to the coast until next month.

Thank God both myself and fellow prisoners are well.

H. RASSAM.

If the King wants to be here, he can come in four or five days, leaving his heavy baggage and large cannons behind him.

Enclosure.

Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

Sehor, 8th November 1867.

I was glad to hear from the men of the Rass who arrived this morning that you, with all your companions, enjoy good health. I am able to say the same of us. Our three children had, since we left Debra Tabor, the measles, as also the baby of Mrs. Rosenthal, but all of them are well again. I had sent to you by Debatsch to 2 and 5. With this opportunity, and Abboog, I send you 200 dollars. Isbelge Debatsh gave me one dollar less 200. I also perceived that some of these dollars, being changed, I had given all good dollars. Debatsh it seems changed some. I hope he has reached you in safety, but am very anxious to hear of his arrival. I shall try and send the servant of Dr. Blanc, with their man Assh Hailu.

Your servant is very ill, and I doubt whether he will recover. All the rest you will learn from Abboog. Jootshee was also ill for some time, but is now better. I long to hear from you again. We know nothing from the coast. It seems the man who had reached Dirita returned to Massowah with the letters. We are living in constant anxiety. The amba which should prefer to this kind of camp life.

Mrs. Flad begs to be kindly remembered. Please give our best regards to all your companions. May God soon hear our prayers and send us freedom. With kindest regards,

I am, &c.,

F. M. FLAD.

P.S.—Mr. Schiller begs me to write to Captain Cameron, that he begs him for God's sake to send him an order for 100 or 200 dollars, as he is in great pecuniary difficulties, together with Messrs. Madrer, Joceps, Essleer. Please let Captain Cameron know this. All the prisoners here have their hands chained to their legs, and have, since Debra Tabor, to sleep in the open air.

F. M. FLAD.

H. Rassam, Esq.

P.S.—The 12th November 1867.

Please ask Captain Cameron whether he has sent an order to M. Munzinger for the 50 dollars I had given to Messrs. Schiller, and 10 from the money of my servants. If not, please let Captain Cameron give you a bill of 50 dollars against myself, and be kind enough to keep it. M. Munzinger, who gave the above gentlemen 50 dollars, begs also for an order on Mr. Herslett, Captain Cameron's agent.

To the servant of the Raas, who brought me your salaam, I gave 2 dollars buksheesh—your account.

F. M. FLAD.

Enclosure.

Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

Royal Camp, 23rd November 1867.

Your letter of the 11th instant reached me, and I return my hearty thanks for it. I was delighted to hear of your well-being, of Debo's arrival, and that you were over the pecuniary difficulties. God's name be praised, who never forsakes them who put their trust in him. Many thanks for the news you had the kindness to give me from Europe, though they were not sufficient for my mind, thirsting for something more to hear of what is going on in the political world. I must be content with those informations you had the kindness to give to me some few days. If we march, we shall reach Dashedsheho, and in a week Tebis. The twenty waggons existing, in 8 small of our large cannons, two mortars, and six waggons with ammunition, give great trouble, as they all must be dragged by the soldiers. The Europeans have the charge of them. Part of the soldiers and native workmen have to make the road, bridges over brooks and rivers are built from stones or earth in an hour or less; it is, they are filled up to the top with stones and covered with earth. H. M. himself is digging, carrying stones, and consequently to Abyssinian custom every bystander must do the same. All the way we came, there are all the villages desolate of

people; they took flight to the Solla. When we reached Gaint, H. M. gave three times his herald, and declared an utter forgiveness, but out of fear the peasants did not come. At several places, many people were caught, and treated by H. M. as revolutioners, and condemned to the fire death. Every second or third day the soldiers are going to plunder the desolate fields of the natives. Our servants have to do the same, and their food exists in nothing but half ripe barley or wheat. Since two days we can get tiff on the market, not quite a Gondar Madiga for a dollar, for which three weeks ago we had to pay from 8 to 10 dollars. H. M. soldiers tired of dragging the waggons are taking leave by themselves every night.

Great preparations are made by H. M. for a great battle, which he is going to fight, as it is reported in Wadela. Now the Europeans are more hated amongst the soldiers and the peasants than they ever had been before, and whilst we are praying for liberty we have to entreat God to beware us that we are not left to the mercy of the King's soldiers or the peasants. All their misery they impute to the Europeans, who came to their country to eat their corn, or teach the H. Belket what none loves except himself. If we are getting out alive, it is to be counted as one of the greatest miracles. You were right to keep the fifty dollars sent by M. Munzinger. From your money in my hands, I gave to-day to Messrs. Schiller, Essler, and Macerer, on Captain Cameron's account, 50 dollars. In Debra Tabor I gave them fifty on his account, and another fifty on an order of M. Munzinger, which sum it seems he has sent now. I send you a receipt of them. Please make the Consul write an order of this 100 dollars and 43½ dollars which he owed me on Mr. Herslet's, to be paid to M. Munzinger or the British Agent at Massowah, as I have taken the 100 dollars from my servant and given them an order on M. Munzinger to be paid there, that would be 31l. 18s. 6d. according to the value of money at Massowah. The three poor sufferers were in the greatest need; they tried to get some money from the Europeans, but none would or perhaps could borrow them. Mr. Warder made Mr. Madrer a present of 10 dollars. They begged to remember them kindly to Captain Cameron, to you, and to return their heartiest thanks to the Consul. The prisoners here are very bad off; here they are chained hand and foot and had to walk the marches we made. Our friends had two days to walk. After that myself and Mr. Rosenthal could send them our mules. Now the hand chains of the European prisoners are opened. Mr. Staiger had to cut a pattern for a Royal coat, which gave the impulse of their being opened at their hand chains. The King was polite to him. He said, "Would it not have been better for you to be free than to be in chains, having tried to run away to your country like a slave?" For cutting the pattern he received a cow.

We are, thank God, in good health, as also the children and Mrs. Rosenthal's baby. Our children beg to return their love to you.

Mrs. Flad begs to be remembered to you and the gentlemen with you.

P.S.—To the last messenger I gave 5 dollars, and as he was wounded and plundered, he begged for a pair of trowsers, and I gave him a dollar more. To the men of the Ras who brought me your salaam I gave also 2 dollars. To Gooltooha I gave 5 dollars, to spend for Hailoo and two other sick servants of yours beyond what they monthly get from Mr. Waldmeier. Mr. and Mrs. Waldmeier beg to be kindly remembered to you, as do also the other Europeans here. As Mr. Waldmeier told me this evening, H. M. had remembered you again to-day, and said, Oh, that Mr. Rassam would be here with me. Mr. Waldmeier thinks that H. M. is going, if arriving at Magdala, to play a similar comedy as in Legy. The report is that he intends to go to Shoa. I wish we could have arrived at M. Please tell Captain Cameron that I received his bill for Mr. Bourgorrd, and transmitted it to Mr. Pardee, and that Mr. Magir and Mr. Tachmiller ask him for bills for what he owes them. Pray excuse the many commissions I give you for Captain Cameron. I have no desire to write letters to him now, and I cannot send more paper. The 3rd of December.

Deshedoheo.

We are all pretty well. Mrs. Waldmeier is sick of dysentery, and watched by soldiers. I have been watched one night. The King is in a fearful rage. To Mr. Yenders, Mr. Bardel, and Mr. Baungaud only he is friendly.

T. M. FLAD.

To Mr. Rassam.

Enclosure.

DR. BLANC to Col. MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 2nd December 1867.

It appears as if we were approaching a crisis of some kind or the other. Menilek succeeded in settling the Galla country, and placing his protege Workite on throne. Martiah has run away somewhere, with only a few followers, ready to turn up again some day when fortune will smile on her. Saturday last Menilek pitched his camp on the heights opposite this amba, about a couple of miles to the S.E. At about 12 o'clock on that day he fired a salute to inform the garrison of his arrival, and intention of making himself master of the place. Will he succeed, that is another question. Rassam communicated some time ago with him. He appears friendly and hopeful—but though at the head of an army of 40 to 50,000 men, he could not find twenty to assault this place. He must try to win over the people up here by promises. If he succeeds, all is well, otherwise his presence in the neighbourhood, though it will keep T. off, may bring our little affair to an awkward end, as Rob will no doubt send orders to have all the prisoners killed, with special instructions regarding the white men, as he would be in a fearful state of mind if he believed that we would fall alive in the hands of his rival. He hates us all; only keeps us to derive advantages from us. The moment he will see these benefits transferred to another, he will, doubt it not, do his best to put us out of the way. It is touch and go.

If Menilek succeeds, liberty *for a time*; if he remains here, and allows messengers to pass, we have then a poor chance. Another message was sent to him to-day by R. to urge him on, and at the same time to impress upon him the necessity of stopping all communication between Rob and his gang up here.

The chiefs and soldiers of this amba are much divided; though they all shout that they will fight to the last, it is well known that more than half are inclined to call in Menilek. In a few days more may be gained to his cause, and what bravery cannot accomplish, treachery perhaps will. Yesterday there was a great boasting party at King's House, Rob's brat, Dejatmaten Alamoyon (I have seen the world), a boy of six or seven years of age, presiding. The drink being not very abundant, the loyalty was not excessive. All went on well, though we feared that the occasion would be taken advantage of to put in chains a few considered suspected; amongst them our friend Samuel. Happily, he came back all right to our great joy. Friday night, as Menilek was heard to be approaching, an order came for all of us to be shut up at night in one house, except Rassam, who was to be left alone. Samuel, though unwell, went to the chiefs, and protested in such strong terms that the order was cancelled and the statu quo allowed. A great many of the servants have been ordered down the mountain. I am only allowed two and a small boy. This cannot last very long. Before a few days it must be over one way or the other. We have not heard from you or the coast since a very long time, so are quite in the dark with reference to Tom Atkins. Our misery has lasted too long. I cannot tell you all we have to suffer; it would be out of place in our present dangerous position. We long for home! or an end, never mind what it is, as long as we get out of the mess. With kindest regards to Mrs. Woolcombe.

Believe me, &c.,

H. BLANC, M.D.

As I cannot write again this time to Mrs. Woolcombe, kindly give her news when you write to her.

Cameron sends you his compliments. He will (write?) to you shortly. Samuel begs to send you his respects.

Wakshun Gobaze is said to be in Yedjan. He has sent chiefs for the second time to Balarter, and Dahonte probably took advantage of Martiah's fall to seize upon them. It is rumoured that Menilek and Wakshun are on terms of friendship (doubtful). Rob is said to be somewhere near Aibankob. His progress is slow; I hope it is not sure.

To Colonel Merewether, C.B.

Political Resident, Aden.

Enclosure.

MR. RASSAM TO COLONEL MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 16th December 1867.

I have with much pleasure received your welcome notes of the 1st and 10th October, and of the 4th ultimo, which reached me altogether on the 13th instant. We were all delighted to learn of the arrival of part of the Abyssinian Field Force at the coast of Ethiopia, and we were rejoiced above measure at the prospect of seeing you here with the Military Expedition. I hope it will not be long before we have the pleasure of meeting you in this place, and go out of it with you in a more happy mood than when we were ushered into it.

On the 11th instant I sent you down some letters with the latest intelligence both about the movements of King Theodorus and the new King of Shoa, Menilek. As the messengers who carried those letters may reach Massowah after your departure hitherward, I deem it advisable to send you a few lines through Zoola, straight down to where you may be. I enclosed you these notes which I had received from Mr. Flad. His latest date was the 3rd instant. They had then just arrived at Jeabo, on their way here, but at the rate they had been travelling since they left Dabra Tabor on the 4th of October (the distance being only about 50 miles between the latter place and Jejaho) they could not be here before the end of February. If the King wants to join us quickly, however, he could be here in four or five days, by leaving all the heavy baggage behind, with all the gnns and mortars, which he will assuredly do if he hears of the approach of the British Army. It will be very unfortunate for us if he comes here, as we shall have no end of bullying, and it is feared that he will not trust himself in this mountain when he knows that the force is near, but decamp with his remaining cowardly followers towards the land of his nativity, Quara, and of course drag us with him as slaves. If these cowardly rebels had only a little pluck they might in a few days settle his hash for him; for I believe he has now scarcely five thousand fighting men with him, and yet he defies both Wakshum Gobaze, the Chief of Lasta, and Menilek, the King of Shoa, who can attack him each with forty thousand men. The latter came to within five miles of the fortress with his big army on the 30th ultimo, and after he stayed three days without moving a foot, he returned to his country on the pretence of his having no food for his soldiers. The fact is he was dawdling about in the Walloo Galla country for nearly two months in settling the dispute between two queens, with reference to the right of imamship. Of course the old queen, Mastra (looking-glass), was turned out to make place for Warkett (gold), who was supported by all the Shoa host. I communicated with him twice while he was in this neighbourhood, and on each occasion we exchanged presents. I begged and entreated him to invest this fortress, and keep Bob from coming, for which I promised him England's everlasting friendship and gratitude; but it was of no use. He was either afraid to come near this

mountain, or his people got into a funk on hearing that the great "Theodorus" was on his way here. However, his message to me was that his army was badly off for food as they had brought no women with them to cook and grind corn for them, but that he was going back to his country, and in two or three weeks he would return hither with everything ready for a long siege. There is no more chance of seeing him again (while Bob is in the neighbourhood) than hearing the sound of the British bugle to-morrow. I am now going to try the other chief rebel, Wakshum Gobaze, who has been acting friendly towards me in protecting my messengers when they pass through his country for a long time, and see whether he can render us any service. He being the blood enemy of Bob, may be anxious to hurry on a part of the Expedition, by rendering you assistance in the supply of mules and carriers, and in checking for a month or two the movements of the King. I intend also in future to send all my messengers to your camp through him (that is to say, if he behaves friendly), as he has great power in facilitating their march up and down, as he has done on former occasions. If this attempt also fails I shall try and see what I can do on this mountain. I have a large party here who sympathize with us, but, as I said before, it is quite impossible to instil pluck into them. I have great hopes, however, that through my friendship with the chiefs, there will be no trouble in having the gates thrown open as soon as the British flag makes its appearance, and also that in case Bob sends a hasty order about us it would not be obeyed on the chance of speedy succour. We hope and trust that at least a division will make haste hitherward for our relief, as it is believed that even two thousand soldiers of all arms can easily come on without experiencing any check on the road, especially if W.G. renders assistance by giving you a proper number of animals. Of course it is not in my province to recommend anything towards the movements of a military force, but I have suggested the above in consequence of what I have heard from different people, both European and natives, upon the subject. All I can say is, may God prosper you all on your journey hither, and bless you with good health.

Poor Mr. Flad wrote in bad spirits, as his Majesty was angry with him and the other Europeans (excepting Messrs. Bardel, Bourgan, and Yunder), the day they arrived in Jyagoon, some pretence or other, and that both he and Mr. Waldmath were watched. The royal messenger who brought me (privately) the notes from Flad thinks that all the Europeans, excepting the above-mentioned three individuals, will soon be chained. Flad informed me that his Majesty had said before the Europeans, the other day, "Oh, had I only now Mr. Rassam with me!" or words to this effect. I guess that I shall not be as comfortable with him as I am here, though he has such a great affection for me!!! I appreciate the royal friendship more at a distance! I shall love him much more if he goes down to Lake Isana, and wile away his time in catching fish until you meet him face to face! Oh, when that happy day comes to pass. I am wearing away fast from no end of bother and anxiety.

If you see Wilkins and Grieg of the Engineers, and Mignon of the Commissariat, please remember me kindly to them, and also to Colonel Cameron of the 4th King's Own, and to any friend or acquaintance who may be with the Expedition and inquire after me.

Thank God we are all well. Prideaux sends you his kind regards, and both Messrs. Stern and Rosenthal present you with their compliments.

Believe me, &c.,
H. RASSAM.

P.S.—I have not been able as yet to send your notes to Flad, but as soon as I find a good opportunity I will do so.

I shall try and send you messengers once a week, and keep you informed of the King's movements, and feelings of his garrison. If you think that Wallo Gallas can be of any use to you, please let me know, and I will communicate at once with their queen for any assistance you require. You will be glad to know that all the royal couriers are in my pay, &c., so I am always kept informed of all communications. You will be surprised when you arrive to find how many influential friends I have, thanks to Samuel. I had only wished he had more pluck.

If you write to me anything dangerous, please send it to me separate by the messengers, and tell its bearer to sew it on in his trousers, and to take care that it does not fall in the hands of Bob, for his satanic majesty would most assuredly chop his hands and feet off, or commit him to the flames, instead of the obnoxious paper.

Yours, &c.,
H. RASSAM.

The Chief Royal Service Alacka, Zoola.

Has always rendered me good service. He is the keeper of the Royal Archives, and had the Emperor such an appointment as the Lord Chancellor he might say the above scribe was the keeper of the King's conscience.

In case anything happens to us, I recommend him and Samuel to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government. I recommend also my interpreters, Omar Ali, who is now a Christian, and called Guorgees, and Dusta; they have both been very faithful. With regard to my recommending poor Samuel, it is quite profitless to him in case anything happens to us, for most assuredly he would meet with the same fate, as he had on several occasions been taunted with being a slave of the English.

If anything happens to him I recommend his family to the care of Government.

Yours, &c.,
H. R.

Enclosure.

Distribution Return of the Force now in Abyssinia.

At Zoola.

Detachment, Sind Horse.
 3 | 21 Royal Artillery with Mountain Train.
 5 | 21 Royal Artillery do. do.
 1 | 4 King's Own Regiment.
 3rd Regiment N.I.
 25th " "
 23rd Punjaub Pioneers.

*At Koomaylee.*

G | 14 Royal Artillery.
 4 Companies 33rd Foot (under orders for Senafé).

In the Passes.

1st Belooch Battalion.
 Bombay Sappers and Miners.
 Madras do. do.
 2 Companies Punjaub Pioneers.
 Detachment Marine Battalion.

At Senafé.

10th Company Royal Engineers (Head Quarters).
 Head Quarters and 6 Companies 33rd Foot.
 Detachment Sind Horse.
 3rd Light Cavalry.
 10th Regiment N. I.
 1st Company Native Artillery (Major Maret's).
 Bombay Sappers and Miners.
 Total sick of the whole European Force 33 men.
 Do. do. Native do. 56 „
 Total 89

Casualties.

Captain Smythe, 33rd, died in Annesley Bay.
 Captain Benson, R.A., fell overboard, and was drowned at sea between
 Bombay and Aden.

Invalided.

Doctor Stanley, 1 | 4th King's Own Regiment.
 „ Meikleham, Staff.

W. E. MACLEOD, Lieut.-Colonel,
 Acting Deputy Adjutant General, A.E.F.

Zoola, 8th January 1868

No. 22.

Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received
 20th February 1868).

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to enclose the accompanying memorandum of the operations
 of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force up to the 1st February.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
 Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 22.

Memorandum.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Abyssinian
Expeditionary Force, Camp Senafé,
1st February 1868.

When His Excellency Sir Robert Napier, Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, arrived on the 3d January at Annesley Bay, matters were in such a state as to preclude all possibility of an immediate advance. The troops encamped at Zoulla were all employed in working parties. High tides threatened to flood the Commissariat stores, and every exertion was required to construct dykes for their safety, and to prevent the inroad of the sea. The supply of water at Zoulla depended upon working parties continually pumping and landing water condensed by the shipping. The railway demanded the daily employment of a large number of men. The Commissariat supplies at Zoulla, and on board the shipping in harbour, were limited, and large working parties were required to disembark the latter as quickly as possible. The state of the Transport Train, owing to an original defective organization, the epidemic among the animals, and the long marches to the highlands, without a proper supply of water, was not only very unsatisfactory, but most uncertain. This uncertainty was not removed until the Commander-in-Chief despatched an Officer of his personal Staff, with an Officer of the Land Transport Train, to personally investigate the condition and the working of the Land Transport Train, at every station between Zoulla and Senafé. The report of these Officers showed that the Transport Train had, through the above mentioned causes, dwindled down to less than five thousand mules and ponies, and about eleven hundred camels. For the latter at this time the road was practicable no further than Koomaylee. It was then necessary that the Commander-in-Chief should turn his almost undivided attention to the improvement of the Transport Train, and the despatch of supplies for Senafé from Zoulla. It was at Zoulla only that these arrangements could be made, and until the 25th January their supervision and the state of the post of debarkation itself, required the constant attention of the Commander-in-Chief, and demanded his continual presence on the coast.

Nor could, during the same period, large bodies of troops be moved up from Zoulla to the highlands, for those that were at Zoulla were required for the daily working parties, and even if they had not been so there would not have been the means of feeding them at Senafé, and their movement to the front would have monopolized the transport so urgently required to feed the garrison of Senafé. At the latter place, on the 3d January, there were some thirteen hundred sabres and bayonets, and four guns, with nearly two thousand followers. These were living from hand to mouth. The Transport Train could hardly deliver daily their daily consumption.

Neither could more troops be brought quickly to Annesley Bay. The apprehension of disease among Europeans on the coast, and the impossibility of at once marching all disembarked regiments to Senafé, have caused some regiments to be delayed in their departure from India. These apprehensions, founded on the information of every traveller, were fortunately not realized, but slight symptoms of diarrhoea made the Commander-in-Chief apprehensive that it might be dangerous to crowd many troops together on the waterless plain of Zoulla. Other reasons also prevented the rapid bringing forward of troops to Annesley Bay. The commissariat stores for six months, which had been solicited by the Commander-in-Chief in September, only reached Annesley Bay about the same time as himself. Their debarkation required time. The supply of water at Zoulla was also scanty, and often precarious; the breaking of a valve of a pump, or a slight accident to the delicate machinery of a condenser, at once limited the supply of water, and, perhaps, placed men and animals on half rations of that absolute necessity.

By the 25th January, these difficulties were in great measure overcome. The Commander-in-Chief immediately started for the front. He inspected minutely the stations in the pass, and reached Senafé on the 29th.

On the 30th January a detachment of Scinde Horse occupied Attigerat, thirty-six miles in advance of this place. Focado, twelve miles nearer Senafé, was occupied on the 29th by one company of the Bombay Sappers and Miners. Two companies of the 33d Regiment, and two companies of the 10th Native Infantry, occupied Mai Magrab on the 26th, and, on the 31st, two companies of the 33d and two companies of the 10th Native Infantry were advanced from Senafé to Goona-goona, a distance of 12 miles. Ten days supplies were sent forward from Senafé with these troops. There still remain at Senafé an average of 45 days' rations. The road from Zoulla, through the Koomaylee pass, has, by the end of January, been made practicable for wheeled transports, and on the 30th of that month a convoy of 74 carts, laden with Commissariat stores, arrived at Senafé. To-morrow a second convoy of 60 carts will leave Zoulla for the same place. The road from Senafé to Attigerat will, ere long, having required comparatively little labour, be available for wheeled transport, and the force will be able to advance, with a month's supplies, to Antalo.

Three companies of the 4th King's Own Regiment came into Senafé on the 30th, and one Steel Mountain Battery arrived yesterday.

Major Grant, who was sent by the Commander-in-Chief to Kassa, Prince of Tigré, has received a most flattering reception near Adowa. The Commander-in-Chief expects to receive a return visit from Kassa at Attigerat in a few days, and from this interview anticipates important results in obtaining supplies during the march through Tigré. The Commander-in-Chief will then advance as quickly as possible to Antalo.

A telegraphic communication has just reached the Commander-in-Chief, which informs him that seven companies of the 45th Regiment have arrived in Annesley Bay, three of which have already disembarked. It is expected that this evening the telegraph will be completed between Rareeguddy and Senafé.

The Commander-in-Chief, in closing this memorandum, would wish to express his deep obligations to the Officers and men of every branch of the service under his command. The most severe labour and the inevitable hardships of a campaign, which has been inaugurated by pioneering a road for 70 miles through rugged and desert mountains, have not in the least daunted them. The labours of the working parties at Zoulla and on the railway have been very severe. The construction of the road through the tangled masses of gigantic boulders of the Sooroo defile, and the carrying of the same road through a vertical distance of 700 feet up the steep ascent into Senafé, are works on which any army of any nation might look with pride. At these two places the Bombay Sappers and Miners and the 1st Belooch Battalion, and the Bombay Marine Battalion, were principally employed.

Nor can the Commander-in-Chief refrain from expressing his thanks due to Commodore Heath, C.B., and the Officers and men of the Navy, who have shown an ever ready energy and zeal in the furtherance of every object of the expedition, as well as to Captain Tryon, R.N., the able and active Director of the Marine Transport.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 23.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 20th February 1868).

Political Department.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Senafé, 2d February 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour, in continuation of my despatch, dated the 19th ultimo, to forward herewith copies of letters which have been received from our countrymen in the custody of Theodorus subsequent to that date.

The inexpediency of allowing these and similar letters to obtain publicity *in extenso*, either through the public press, or otherwise, is apparent. Certain passages in those now forwarded might, if they were to reach the cognizance of Theodorus, be the cause of a fatal ebullition of temper on his part towards the writers of these letters and their companions. In spite of my precautions, it is to be feared that one or more of the letters may have found its way to the newspapers; but measures will be taken to render this less likely to happen for the future.

The political aspect of affairs in Abyssinia, as bearing upon our operations, continues all that could be wished. I expect daily to receive from Major Grant, C.B., the Officer who was despatched with my letter to Prince Kassa of Tigré, a report of his arrival at Adowa, the Prince's head quarters, and of arrangements having been concluded for Prince Kassa meeting me at Addegrat, about 40 miles in advance of my present position.

Our obtaining supplies in the Province of Tigré has been rendered somewhat more difficult than it might have been, through certain meditated intrigues against Prince Kassa on the part of one or two petty Chiefs of that province.

The latter addressed to me a friendly communication expressing their wish to render us every assistance in their power; but giving vent, at the same time, to their hostile feelings towards Prince Kassa. In reply, I caused them to be informed that I could not interfere in the affairs of their country, and that the only way in which my influence could be used would be towards bringing about their reconciliation with Prince Kassa. They have since expressed a hope that such a reconciliation might be effected.

I have the honour to append copy of a letter which I have received from Wagshoom Gobaze, the Prince of Lasta, and of the reply which I have caused to be sent to it.

The temper of the Shoho and other tribes with whom we have come in contact between this camp and the coast has been friendly. I am happy to say the demeanour of both our European and Native troops towards them has been generally conciliatory and praiseworthy. The consequence is, that the people have freely supplied our camps with what little produce they possess, and exhibit less fear at the approach of the European soldier than I have witnessed in many portions of our own possessions in Hindostan.

Unhappily, the past season has been one of drought, and the country in the neighbourhood has, therefore, yielded even a smaller quantity of produce than usual.

The people, also, are less eager to enter into dealings with us than they would naturally be, for the reason that there is little in the vicinity of their homes which they can purchase with the money we give them. By carrying their surplus produce to more distant markets, such as Massowah, they can there barter it for rice, &c., which of course we cannot afford them in any quantity.

But, notwithstanding these and other difficulties, the exertions of our Commissariat Officers have succeeded, as has been said, in utilizing to some extent the resources of the country; and the cry of milk-sellers, wood-cutters, and water-carriers from the adjacent hills is to be heard all day long in our camps in this country, just as it is heard in those of Hindostan.

The actual quantity of supplies thus obtained by us is, of course, very small in a country with so limited a supply as this. The fact is mentioned chiefly as a satisfactory proof of the temper of the people themselves towards us.

I have, &c.,
R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

P.S.—A copy is also appended of a letter which I have caused to be addressed to the Chiefs of the Walloo Gallas of Dalanta and Daoont.

Enclosures in No. 25.

APPENDIX I.

MR. RASSAM to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 31st December 1867.

I have very little to say this time, but I hope that next week I shall be enabled to write to you a longer letter, and give you a hopeful account of everything.

On the 23d instant, I wrote and informed you of everything.

On the 24th I sent a messenger again to W. G., and recommended to him a certain course, which, if he follows, I do not think we shall see Bob again. I expect the messenger back hourly.

Here I am not inactive, I only now want to gain the confidence of the 617 Ras, and then everything will be all right with me. I have great hopes that I shall accomplish this soon.

The Emperor is now at Wadala, from where a messenger can come hither in two days. On the 25th, royal couriers arrived here with a message from His Majesty as follows: "How are you, how are you my son? By God's grace and your fortune, I have reached the centre of Wadala, and be of good cheer, I shall soon be with you. Ask your brothers (fellow prisoners) for me, how they have passed the time."

On the 26th, other royal couriers arrived with the following message: "How are you, how are you my son? Thank God, I am well. Do not be afraid; we shall yet be happy. Do not grieve, I shall not be able to come to you as soon as I wished, as I have some little work on hand here. Ask your brothers, for me, how they have passed the time."

By the last messenger I received two notes, one from Mr. Flad, and the other from Mr. Staiger (one of the European prisoners in the Royal camp). I send you both herewith, for your perusal.

His Majesty sent to the Chiefs of his fortress, authorizing them to issue a general amnesty to the rebels of Dalanta and Dawoont (the districts which lie between this place and Wadala), and after they had humbugged each other for a few hours, the rebels sent to say, that they would consider about the royal favour, and communicate their decision hereafter. The Chief of the former district sent to tell me not to believe the reports of the Magdala people. It was all over the left, "sooner die by the sword, than be burnt alive."

Kindly pay Wundim Magassia twenty dollars, and to his companion Waldoos the same amount, for this trip. Please, also, to pay to the former three dollars for the clothes he had lost when he came through Adwa; and thirty-six (36) dollars in lieu of cash and things received from him here.

Prideaux sends you his kindest regards, and Messrs. Stern and Rosenthal desire to be remembered to you. I hope it will not be long before you release us of our constant anxiety, and believe me,

Ever yours, &c.,
H. RASSAM.

We have spent a very dull Christmas, but I hope the new year of grace 1868 will to us all be one of joy and happiness.

Mr. STAIGER to Mr. RASSAM, Magdala.

Dear Sir,

Melice, King's Camp, 24th December 1867.

With great joy we received the news that you are all quite well there. We have been all anxious to hear some good tidings from you, as different reports come to the camp concerning the things which have passed there. You have, no doubt, heard how things went on here during the past year. We cannot but say,—“Hitherto the Lord has helped us.” It is not the time now, to give you an explanation about our own affair, but I shall at another time, find a better opportunity to do it. Perhaps we will see each other soon; God knows. Mr. Flad told us that you had been so kind as to offer us money if we are in want of it. We are all very much obliged to you for your kindly offer. As for myself and Mr. Brandeis, we are not in want of money at present, as we have received money from an Abyssinian merchant some days ago. But Messrs. Schiller, Esler, and Makerer, accept thankfully your kind offering, and received 50 dollars from Mr. Flad on your account. Also Mr. Moritz thanks you very much for your kindness; he is not in distress concerning money at present, and therefore, declines your kindly offer. Perhaps, we shall be obliged to make use another time of your kindness, if this *status quo* shall go much longer, which we, however, do not hope. We trust that the Lord will soon release us from these heavy chains, in which we are obliged to drag on day by day. We should be in a still more miserable position, having foot chains, were it not for the kindness of Mrs. Flad and Mrs. Rosenthal, who send us every day their mules to ride upon them. Mr. Flad himself, goes on foot for our sake. God may reward them for it.

Please give my compliments to Captain Cameron, Dr. Blanc, Mr. Prideaux, Mr. Stern and Mr. Rosenthal. My fellow prisoners, Messrs. Brandeis, Schiller, Esler, Makerer, and Moritz, send also their compliments to you and all the other gentlemen who are with you. We are all quite well, God be praised.

Believe me, &c.

W. STAIGER.

Dr. BLANC to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 31st December 1867.

I am very hard up for paper.

* Theodorus. Bob,* I am delighted to say, is in a fix! In my last I told you that he had reached Wadela. It appears that he had a great deal of trouble in ascending from Chechu to Zebit. It took him three weeks to repair the road, and even then, after all, he nearly failed, and a fearful crash took place at the ascent, as the rebels made an attack on his rear; once he was well engaged in the pass. At first Bob advanced at the rate of a mile or two a day, now his daily marches hardly extend over half a mile of ground. He is surrounded by his peasants in arms, and Wagshum Gobaze “is said” to be hovering about some distance in front, biding his time, and supposed to endeavour to defend the passage of the Jiddah. Desertions continue to take place, and if by this time almost every soldier has not run away, it is only because they distrust one another; but should a rebel make a serious attack, every one believes that the discontented and reduced gang would in a body go over to the enemy.

Bob has been doing his best to engage the people of Dahonte, Dalanta, Lasta, and Godjam to return to their allegiance. The last messenger from his camp brought orders to the Chief of this Amba to issue a proclamation to the two first named districts, offering pardon, amnesty, and protection should they repent, and again recognize him as their lord. The Ras acted according to these instructions, even sent a few hundred men to accompany a new Chief, friendly to Bob, who was to settle all difficulties, and bring back to the flock the wayward sheep. Alas! for him and Bob, the peasant could not see the advantage of being plundered and burnt alive; though they never doubted that Bob would in his joy give them a *warm* reception, probably a peg over the bargain, they were misbehaved enough to decline it, and assembled, well armed, in such numbers, that the gallant soldiers of the Amba, considering prudence the better part of valour, wisely retreated. The answer they returned to the proclamation of their would-be sovereign was short, but anything but civil, “Abejo!” that is to say, “Do your worst; we spite you!” Bob must have expected such a result, unless he takes the people to be even bigger fools than they are. Without the help of the peasantry of these districts, Bob, with his baggage and guns, *cannot* come here. That is a settled point. He will have either to retrace his steps towards Begemder (very doubtful), or, making a strong fence to protect his property, and unencumbered advance into Dalanta, destroy the country, and open communication between himself and the Amba (probably); or, thirdly, wait where he is for a while, until he is startled by the news that Thomas Atkins is going to pay him a visit.

Though it is difficult, nay, almost impossible, to say what he will then do. It may be that in his despair he abandons everything, and rides over here, accompanied by few of his greatest ruffians.

Being an Abyssinian, I believe that he will only abandon his property at the very last, and will be nicely caught if a flying column (my hobby), coming *viâ* Godjam, cuts him off. Bob is no doubt quite mad, his people wretched cowards. Usually, after a march, he ascends a hillock, calls his soldiers, and tells them, “I know you all hate me. Come and kill me. If you don’t, I will kill you all, one after the other.” He then throws his spear through the nearest chap, and the others kiss the ground.

Believe me, &c.,

H. J. BLANC, M.D.

My love to Colonel and Mrs. Woolcombe, should you write to them. Kindly forward the enclosed to Mrs. B. You may not only read, but make use as you like of any letter I enclose in yours.

Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM, Magdala.

Dear Sir,

Malay, 24th December 1868.

Many thanks for your letter dated 15th instant, which reached me yesterday evening. I am glad to say that we are getting on little by little. Yesterday and to-day we made only a ten minutes' march. It seems we have an enemy in front of us,—the Lasta rebel,—at least, the soldiers here are talking in that manner. Whilst we are going on, His Majesty plunders the grain left in the field, and burns down the villages, but he does not venture to go down to the Kalla, where the peasants have taken refuge, with all they possess. The King's army is from day to day decreasing, and the soldiers, as well as the officers, are tired of this kind of life; they long for an enemy who will meet them face to face, when they hope that matters and political affairs will be decided. His Majesty is frequently fookering (boasting), repeating to his soldiers his noble deeds of past time; it seems he wishes to encourage them for the present and the future.

Since we were watched that night, when the chains for us had already been brought, the King seems to be languid and indifferent. He had taken council with his big ones, who advised him not to chain any more Europeans until he reaches the mountain. With my coming back again with Her Majesty's letter it seems he is greatly offended. He said that night, "Look at that Flad; he never was my friend, but he came back for the sake of his wife and children, to die with them." I thought to myself, he never but now had said the truth.

Mr. Waldemayer, with the others, were greatly annoyed at the fatherly love of His Majesty towards them, and his gratitude for all their trouble. Mr. Waldemayer, though earnestly sick of dysentery, was kept with us in the open air during that cold night, and, two days after, he was taken in the night from his tent, and brought to the tent of the chief keeper of the prisoners, where he was kept for about 10 days or more, and watched day and night, and attended by an Abyssinian doctor, with portions of Abyssinian medicine, which, I think, was a capital thing, or bitter lesson, for Mr. Waldemayer. They still will have more lessons to learn from their benevolent father. Since a few days, the King flatters Mr. Waldemayer again, and,—should one believe it?—he is as blind as ever. Cursed is he who puts his trust in men or kings. I am not sorry if the King will give them some more lessons to learn, thinking about past events. In the day he is allowed to be in his tent, but at night he sleeps in one of His Majesty's tents. The King said he was told that he wished to run away, or, rather, that Mrs. Waldemayer should have sent to a rebel, that he should come and help her husband out of the King's hand. Mrs. Waldemayer was fearfully abused by His Majesty, and it seems his whole hatred is against her and her family, now in Estrý.

It is not yet decided which road His Majesty will take, whether the road by the Bethor, or round the Djadda, by Kassoo Amba. At all events, it will be hard work to bring the big mortar and the big cannons up to the mountain, and it will require a long time, especially if Dacont and Dalanta do not make peace with him.

* Menelik. † By England.

Please keep the letters until we come nearer, and the road gets safe. Where is he, 5252424? * I thought he was sent 192534152†.

I am very thankful for your kindness, offering me, in case of difficulties, a portion of your money. I hope to reach. With your servant Gooltsha I placed 200 dollars, in case anything should happen. If we come near to the mountain, I think it will be better to send the money on to you; it is safer, I should think, with you than with us. I got again 168 dollars from a merchant, on an order to Mr. Eipperle, which will be paid from your money. In case I or Mr. Stern should be in want of it, we can afterwards arrange it. I thought it is better to have some money here than in Mattana, as it is to be feared that both the roads may be shut for us.

If you have any trustworthy acquaintance there, put some money with him, in case we ever reach; we don't know to what excess it may come in His Majesty's brain.

Messrs. Schiller, Esler, and Makerer have been very thankful for your kind remembrance of them. I supplied them with 50 dollars to-day, and they return their heartiest thanks to you. For Messrs. Staiger and Brandeis, I got money from a merchant, on an order on Mr. Eipperle, where they have money of their own.

* Messenger between King and myself.

(Signed) H. R.

Mrs. Flad and children are, thank God, in good health. They beg to remember them kindly to you and all the gentlemen with you. I send you Abbooi. You will learn from him that your servant, Hailoo,* died.

What a Christmas Day! I hope this will be the last under these painful circumstances.

Messrs. Waldameyer, Saalmer, Bender, Mager, and Shimper send their compliments to you.

Please remember me kindly to all, also to Aito Samuel.

With kindest regards,

I have, &c.,

T. M. FLAD.

I should have liked to send a few lines to Colonel M., but the messenger does not allow me to do so. If you will, tell them that I am still alive.

T. F.

No. 1.

Mr. RASSAM to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 7th January 1868.

We are badly off for money; kindly send us some as soon as possible.

The Emperor is now within a day's journey of this place, and so we may see him any day here. He is always kind, and never sends a messenger here without telling them to come to me, with a polite message.

Thank God we are well, and with kind remembrances from all.

Believe me, &c.,
H. RASSAM.

No. 2.

Mr. RASSAM to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 7th January 1868.

Since my note of the 31st ultimo, the Dalanta people have submitted to the Emperor, and now the road between this place and the royal camp is open and safe. If His Majesty likes to come in a quick march here, he can be with us now any day, for it will not take him more than ten hours' ride on a good mule. Now messengers arrive daily from Baitabor, on the other side of the Valley Chetta, where he is now staying until the road will be repaired. The Dalanta and Dawoont people were obliged to submit, because they found that the rebel Chiefs would render them no protection. On the 1st instant my messenger returned from W. G., with a promise that he would try his best to stop the "common enemy" from coming here.

He said that he ordered two Dejasmatches to come and assist the people of Dalanta and Dawoont in checking the progress of Theodorus, and that he was ready to fall on him and smash him as soon as he went down the valley of the Chetta.

As His Majesty has not yet begun to descend, we know not how far the Lasta Chief intends to keep his engagement, but his promise of sending two Dejasmatches, with the troops under their command, to Dalanta and Dawoont has proved a mere moonshine. I do not believe there are more contemptible people on the face of the globe than these rebels. They only talk big, but do nothing. W. G. has urged me again to write and hurry on the invading expedition, and I believe my messenger, whom I sent to you through him on the 6th ultimo, has carried a letter from him to the General commanding the force containing the same injunction. The messenger who carries this letter will visit him on his way down, as he has promised to write to the General commanding by him.

My friends here, also, have no pluck to do anything, so I must now revert to other expedients, and keep on very good terms with Bob.

On the 4th instant one of his old and confidential couriers, named Jasba luka Leah (an old acquaintance of mine) was sent here by the Emperor for eatables and drinkables. He was ordered to come to me with the following message,—“How are you; how are you my friend? Thank God, I am quite well. I have now reached Baitabor, and hope to be soon with you. The further I come towards you the happier I feel, as I know that the pleasure of meeting you is drawing near. The reason I sent you to Magdala is, because I wished you to be in my house with my Queen Consort and my son, and I hope that they have been kind to you and attended to your wants. Your servant, Mahomed Gueed, has reached Chugul from Massowah, with stores for you, and he is now with my people there. I have also received everything that has been sent by your people from the coast (which has detained me for so long on the coast). I have had a very large mortar cast, which has detained me so long on the road, but when I reach Magdala, and see you admire it, I shall forget all the trouble it has given me. Ask your brothers (fellow European prisoners) for me how they are? I am obliged to send the messenger in haste, otherwise I would have written to you.” On the strength of this most courteous message, I was advised by the Chiefs to write a complimentary letter to him, and congratulate him on his safe arrival at Baitabor, which I did, and I sent the letter by my chief interpreter. The following is the copy of the letter, in verbatim:—

“Most Gracious Sovereign,

“Magdala, 5th January 1868.

“I have had the honour of receiving Your Majesty's kind letter by Leah, and was delighted to hear of your safe arrival at Baitabor.

“I am also not a little pleased to hear that Your Majesty is in perfect health. May the Lord give Your Majesty perfect health and prosperity, and show me the light of your countenance, and may you enjoy a happy Christmas.

“Dr. Blanc and Mr. Prideaux, Captain Cameron and his party, and Mr. Stern and his party, send Your Majesty their respectful compliments.

“I remain, &c.,
“H. RASSAM.”

It is believed that my interpreter will be received well; if so, His Majesty will be sure to send him back with a polite message in a day or two. The Emperor has sent for 600 men of this garrison to go and fetch the heavy luggage with the assistance of the Dawoont and the Dalanta people. It is surmised that they will also bring the prisoners here.

When you write to me please do not allude to either Menelik or Wagshum Gobassi, and any confidential communication ought to be given to the messenger to sew in his trousers. Any letter which contains nothing objectionable may be sent as usual.

I send you a summary of my accounts to the end of last year, which please keep in your safe custody until we meet, which I hope will be before long. I send you also a note which I received from Flad on the 3d instant.

I have agents in Dalanta ever since we were sent here, who have always served me faithfully and honestly, both in protecting our messengers on their way down to Massowah and back, and purchasing everything necessary for our wants. Their names are Takichaon and Mengosba, whom I recommended to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, in case I shall not live to reward them for their good services.

They have always assisted our messengers under the most dangerous circumstances, and there is no doubt they will continue to discharge their duty properly and faithfully so long as they are able.

Please give the bearer, Onheeshet, and his companion, twenty dollars each for their trip, and let the former have forty-two (42) dollars extra, thirty as a present for services rendered between Wagshum Gobassi and myself, and twelve dollars for a year's wages, which I owe him to the end of 1867.

Thank God, we are well, with the exception of Cameron.

Blanc, Prideaux, and Messrs. Stern and Rosenthal, desire to be remembered to you.

Believe me, &c.,
H. RASSAM.

Enclosures in Mr. RASSAM's Letter to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER, January 1868.

Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

Bethor, January 2d, 1868.

We wish you God's blessing for the new year, and hope it will be the year of release and liberty for all. Your kind note of the 30th December I got this night; many thanks for it. The letter you mention, sent on the 29th December, has not yet reached.

We are all in good health, with exception of little daughter of Mr. Rosenthal.

Yesterday morning we reached this place, where we shall stay for three or four days, until His Majesty has made a road. It will take us a fortnight or three weeks to reach Dalanta.

We have no news. The Lasta rebel went to his country. It is said that the half population of Dalanta wish for peace with the King. The same is said from the Daout people. It will be decided in a few days.

If we reach Magdala, and His Majesty places all the Europeans and the native prisoners there, everything will get very dear. It will be good if you will provide your house beforehand. I should feel much obliged to you if you could let me beg, by one of your men, some dollars worth of butter, honey, salt, corn, and mats for our tents, as I fear we shall have to spend next rainy season in tents, and I should like a good black tent for my family. If the next messenger comes I shall write again.

Please remember me kindly. Mrs. Flad and children beg to be remembered, and wish you a happy new year.

With kindest regards, &c.,
T. M. FLAD.

Dr. BLANC to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 7th January 1868.

Instead of dear Bob being in a fix, as I wrote to you in my last, it seems as if we should soon be the unlucky party. That braggart coward, Wakshun Gabazi, showed the white feather; he abandoned his position and retired behind Lasta, leaving unprotected the peasants of Dahonto, Dalanta, and Gedjard, who, on his promise of protection, had declined to accept Bob's offer of amnesty and pardon. I only hope that Bob will some day catch him and hang him on the same tree on which he hung the father. Bob took advantage of the disappearance of his great enemy to issue another proclamation to the peasantry. He told them not to trust in rebels, they only fed on them, asked for tribute, but could not defend them on his approach. "Let all them join together, the Shoa, Gajam, and "Jigray rebels, and with a stick he would drive them away." Very probable. The peasants of the districts abandoned by Wakshun felt their helpless condition. The greater part abandoned their homes, a few still remain doubtful, and some have gone over to Bob, are carrying his kit, and take their chance. To them Bob necessarily makes very fine promises, as for keeping them it is another question. Though somewhat better off than last week, Bob is not yet all right. He will probably send over here his baggage, using as carriers a part of his soldiers, when they will be met by the portion of the garrison of this Amba. So far all is easy, though it will necessarily take some time, but how, with all the reinforcement he can at present dispose of, will he be able to bring here his big guns, one of them weighing some 15 or 17,000 pounds? The natives have already foreseen this difficulty, and to some extent dispose of it. They say that, when he has sent all his baggage and prisoners to this Amba, he will take his heavy guns from Bethor (his present position on the northern side of the Gidda) to an Amba not far distant, leave on it a small garrison, and, accompanied by his Europeans, and taking with him only his small guns, proceed after the Galla country, Gedjam, Lasta, or back to punish the rebels of Begember, who have so much offended him. For my part, I do not believe it. Once his baggage, prisoners, sick, &c., are transferred to this Amba, his great big gun will be of no use; he will have it most probably broken up, and another one cast, on the Amba itself, or some dodge of the kind. What he now desires, is to reassure the people of this Amba, and

the peasants of the neighbourhood, until he is rid of all encumbrances, and then he will no more smile, cajole, and promise, but threaten and punish. I don't say much of Bob having as yet heard of your doings, at all events, if he has, he keeps it in his "royal belly." Of late, messengers have been coming here almost daily, every one bringing a pretty compliment. What their value is, the past is a good test; from Kurracha his correspondence was the Bible, used as a political instrument, and ended in the arrest of Zagay. The polite and friendly behaviour he for some weeks showed us on the road and at Gallat ended in the second arrest, the blockhouse, &c.; his friendly visit on that occasion, his several polite messages on the road, preceded but a few days our quick march to Magdala, and our being loaded with fetters. No one has gone so far as Bob in the practical illustration of Tallyrand's axiom that "*la parole a été donnée a l'homme pour cacher sa pensée.*" Bob, when not mad through rage or arake is not a fool; he knows, better than any living man how to take any one in. He is a splendid actor, and can, if he deems it his interest, assume such friendly manners, such a kind, humane, benevolent disposition, that he has succeeded in imposing over and over again on his dupes. Trust him not; even at the eleventh hour (whether he adopts the kind or harsh mood in the meanwhile), no one will be able to arrive at any conclusion as to what he really intends to do. I have long desired the present crisis. I have done my humble way, to prove its necessity, whatever happens, and it cannot be long now will find me happy and content. I have no fear whatever. As I said long ago, he is a bully and a braggart, and all such are cowards at heart, he only inspires terror by his unheard-of cruelty, and lives simply because the others are even bigger cowards than himself. May God bless you for your noble endeavours in our favour, and may your work, so well begun, be forwarded so as to bring on the accomplishment of your persevering efforts. I know that, commanded by His Excellency Sir R. Napier, an army can and will achieve great things. If I have ever ventured to give you my views on the subject, it is not (and you know me) that I am in any way presumptuous, far from it, only that, being on the spot, I might add a little information to that you may receive from other sources. My ideas have never changed, and, however unworthy they are, are still, cut him off, if possible, or surround him, so that he finds escape impossible. Firm and dignified language will do the worst; never mind, what cannot be cured must be endured. I will, at least, have, at the last moment, the happiness to think that, if not rescued, at all events I will be avenged. I would have written several times to dear M. Munzinger, but I know not where he is. It is some time already since I have received a letter from him. Please give him my love.

Believe me, always with respect,

Most sincerely yours,

H. BLANC, M.D.

Samuel begs to send you his respectful compliments. Cameron has been very unwell of late, but is now somewhat better. We are all more or less broken down; but, to show you how difficult it is to know the truth here, I will just tell you an incident that happened yesterday. At night, a coffin was brought in, with great military and clerical pomp, but I cannot tell you if it is the body of Bob's sister or of his father-in-law, Dejatch Anbie, of Tigray. The first is the official version, the second the popular one. It is said that Menilek died on his way back.

APPENDIX II.

DEJESMATSH GOBAZZIE to His Excellency Sir ROBERT NAPIER.

May this letter of Dejesmatsh come to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. Are you quite well? I am obstructing mine and your enemy that he cannot go to Amba (Magdala) and destroy the prisoners. But now do come in great hurry, and if he (Kussa) tells you Tigré "belong to me from my father," you must not take it for the truth. But if you say, "We come to liberate our brethren," do come quick.

APPENDIX III.

Brigadier-General Merewether, C.B., to the Chiefs of the Walloo Gallas of Dalanta and Daount.

We write to tell you that the army of England is coming to rescue the British subjects unjustifiably held in captivity by Theodorus, and to resent the insult offered by Theodorus to the Queen of England.

The General commanding the Army, Sir Robert Napier, has only friendly feelings towards the Chiefs and people of Abyssinia, who, he knows are friendly inclined towards him and his army,

Any assistance, therefore, that you render in the accomplishment of the object for which he has entered the country, will gain his favour, and be amply rewarded.

He is coming quickly with his army. Any opposition you can offer to Theodorus' advance will be most satisfactory to him, and command his warm approval.

We send a copy of his proclamation, which will be strictly adhered to.

W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General,
on special Duty, Abyssinia.

Brigadier-General MEREWETHER to His Excellency AITO GONAZZE, Ruler of Wag and Wagshuni.

We have received your letters by your messengers, and now write to inform you as before, that the General of the British army is coming quickly with his troops; so do all you can to prevent Theodorus reaching Magdala before the General comes, and the General will be well pleased. He is acting only against the common enemy of all Abyssinia, Theodorus, and anything you do with the same view will be good.

With regard to Kussa, the Commander-in-Chief will have nothing to do with the internal affairs of Abyssinia. He will treat all as friends who wish to be so, and who act as friends, but no more. We trust this will find you well.

W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General.

Senafé, 31st January 1868.

No. 24.

The Assistant Adjutant-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, to the Under Secretary of State for India (received 20th February 1868.)

Sir,

Zoulla, 3d February 1868.

In the absence of Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier at Senafé, I deem it right to intimate, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, that, since despatch of last mail, the following troops have joined the force here from India:—

45th Foot.

2d Bombay Native Infantry.

18th "

21st Bengal ("Punjab") Native Infantry.

5/25 Royal Artillery, from Bengal, with Brigadier-General Stewart and Staff.

The latter only came in a few hours ago, and so Sir Robert Napier is not yet aware of it. I write to report accordingly.

A distribution return, embodying all these troops, will be sent by the next mail.

The troops about to move, or now moving, from Senafé onwards to Attigerat are,—

33d Regiment.

10th Regiment Native Infantry.

Wing, Sind Horse.

3/21 Mountain Battery.

The Belooch Battalion.

A detachment, Punjab Pioneers.

The 4th Foot and 25th Native Infantry are on their way from this to Senafé, and the 3d Native Infantry and a wing, 21st Punjab Regiment, in the passes.

The weather has been very unpropitious here all day, blowing half a gale of wind, and I consequently could not record all this information till close on post hour, as we could not tell what had actually arrived in the harbour. I leave, with this office, to join His Excellency to-morrow, Colonel Thesiger, Deputy Adjutant-General, is with him.

I am, &c.,

W. E. MACLEOD, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Head
Quarters.

No. 25.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 27th February 1868).

Commander-in-Chief's Office,

Right Honourable Sir,

Political Department, 5th February 1868.

I have the honour, in continuation of my Despatch, dated 2d instant, to forward copy of a letter received last night from Major Grant, C.B., the Officer whom I had deputed to Prince Kassa, the ruler of the province of Tigré, through which our route now lies.

2. During my march yesterday from Senafé to this place, I was met on the way by several petty Chiefs, and by numerous people of different classes. All of them rendered us every demonstration of friendliness and respect. Being accompanied by a competent interpreter in Captain Speedy, the gentleman who was summoned from Australia, for the purpose of accompanying the mission, I was enabled to take the

opportunity of explaining to all whom we met, the object of our expedition, and of entering into conversation with them on such points as it seemed useful to explain to them.

3. The people seemed thoroughly satisfied that the account given them of our objects was the true one and I look forward with every confidence to the good feeling now existing between the people of the country and ourselves being preserved.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Major Grant, C.B., Intelligence Department, Abyssinian Expedition, on Special Duty, to Political Secretary to His Excellency Sir R. Napier, K.C.B., G.C.S.I.

Sir,

Adwa, 1st February 1868.

I have the honour to report, that Consul Munzinger and I reached here at noon yesterday, and requested, through Mr. Gabroo Werke, an interview in the afternoon. This was not granted, as the Prince Kassa had to make preparations to receive the mission with all honour. This morning, before breakfast, we were received by the Prince at a darbar consisting of two thousand people with their Chiefs. The Prince has a quiet manner in court, but received us by coming from his couch and shaking us by the hand. I delivered the letter from His Excellency, and also the presents in this open court, and the Prince bowed in acknowledgment of both. We repeatedly made the attempt to get him to talk upon business, but his reply was, that "after the darbar he would be at leisure," or "to-morrow he would find plenty of time." In this way, from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. we waited for an interview, but as the mass of people were entirely occupied in eating, drinking, and swearing allegiance to him, we left in the assurance that after he had been to church to-morrow, he would be glad to hear what his Excellency's wishes were. We propose to attend church also, as several natives here have inquired whether we are Turks or Christians.

I may remark that upon our entry into this town, all the women appeared on the walls and in the roads and lanes, and gave us a hearty cheer or African cry, in honour of our arrival. It shows that the people are with us, for the Prince inquired anxiously why they did so, never having expressed themselves in this way before. Consul Munzinger informs me that they cheer in this way only for those from whom they anticipate some good.

At the darbar of to-day, several of the most influential Chiefs, and the musicians when singing, said that there is no fear for the future now that the English are their allies.

I have to report the arrival of Naeeb Muhammad of Massawa this day, with thirty followers. Consul Munzinger thinks that he has come here for the purpose of preventing the letter of Hussain Beg (Governor of Massawa) from falling into our hands.

As soon as the Prince fixes the date of our departure from here, I shall send a special messenger to Senafé and another to Adtegrat. We shall make every effort to obtain a proper interview, but should he vacillate, we purpose leaving this upon Tuesday the 4th, so as to arrive at Adtegrat upon the Thursday following.

We have been unable to form a correct opinion of Prince Kassa from the single interview we have had with him to-day, but I should say that, with his weak expression, he can be easily led, and that he wants the dash ever to become a great ruler in Abyssinia.

However, I firmly believe that the great majority of his advisers see the advantage of his alliance with England.

I have, &c.,

J. A. GRANT.

No. 26.

The Military Secretary, India Office, to Sir R. NAPIER.

Sir,

India Office, 6th March 1868.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st ultimo, enclosing copy of a memorandum descriptive No. 22. of the operations of the Abyssinian expeditionary force up to that date.

2. Sir Stafford Northcote has perused the report with much interest; it fully confirms the impressions derived from previous communications, and reports as to the great and varied difficulties which had to be encountered and overcome in the equipment and landing of a force upon a coast so singularly inhospitable as that of the Red Sea, and in its movement, by mountain passes comparatively unknown, to the table-land of Abyssinia.

(4664.)

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3. The only drawback to the generally successful results of the measures adopted by your Excellency and the Government of Bombay has been the extraordinary mortality among the horses, and, still more, among the baggage animals. In the case of the former, the evil might have been foreseen, but could hardly have been prevented; with regard to the latter, though, perhaps, in some manner due to the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of trustworthy drivers at the precise time when they were required for employment with a large number of animals, brought together from different directions, it is doubtless, in a great measure, also to be attributed to the character of the climate, and the insufficiency and bad quality of the water in the first instance.

4. The determination of your Excellency to direct personally the arrangements on the coast for the proper organization of the transport train, and the provisioning of the post at Senafé, appears to Her Majesty's Government to have been very judicious; and they learn with the greatest satisfaction that sufficient progress has been made in these respects to justify your Excellency in moving up to Senafé, and pushing a detachment forward to Attegrat.

5. Your Excellency has justly remarked, in the memorandum, on the services rendered by the Officers and men of the force under your command. Her Majesty's Government have observed, with the greatest satisfaction, the spirit of zeal and unanimity which has been displayed by the Officers and men of every branch of the service in the incessant labour which the physical difficulties to be overcome, and the character of the country and of the climate, rendered inevitable, and in the very cordial spirit of co-operation which has existed in the naval and military forces and amongst all ranks, they recognize the best assurance of success to your Excellency's future operations.

6. His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief and the Secretary of State for War have expressed their full concurrence in these sentiments.

I have, &c.,

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

No. 27.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India in Council (received 10th March).

Right Honourable Sir, Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
Camp, Addigerat, 14th February 1868.

I have the honour, in continuation of Despatch dated the 5th instant, to inform you that I arrived here on the 6th instant. The road is passable for troops to a distance from this place of about seventy miles in the direction of Antalo, and detachments are being pushed on as rapidly as our means of transport will allow. My presence here is expedient for the purpose of developing the arrangements on which the onward progress of the expedition depends. I hope, however, to be able to advance on the 17th instant.

2. Copies of letters received from Magdala on the 10th instant are appended (Appendix A.). The information contained in Dr. Blanc's second letter of the 17th January (which was conveyed in cipher) shows how necessary are the precautions that have latterly been taken against these communications attaining publicity. A *précis* of the information contained in the letters just received (which is appended, marked B.) is the only indication of their contents that has been suffered to leave my own hands and General Merewether's.

3. It is impossible to conjecture what may be the real bent of King Theodore's mind in view of the crisis which he must now perceive to be drawing near. His polite letter to Mr. Rassam might seem to indicate a desire on his part not only to receive us now as friends, but to simulate the character of one who had never done anything to forfeit our friendship. But, on the other hand, the well known duplicity of his character makes it unsafe for us to place any confidence in his ostensible course of action. It is only natural that he should be endeavouring to secure a friend in

Mr. Rassam, lest the worst should come to the worst. The energy with which he is working to open up a road between his camp and Magdala is evidence of his anxiety to reach that fortress, with his guns and baggage, whatever his ulterior plans may be.

4. Copies of letters received from Major Grant, C.B., in continuation of that of which a copy has already been submitted for your information, are appended, marked C.; also translation of a letter addressed to me by Prince Kassa (in reply to that of which Major Grant had been the bearer); and translation of another letter from the same Prince to the address of General Merewether (Appendices D. and E.) A translation of my reply to Prince Kassa's letter is appended, marked F.

5. It will be seen from the above documents that we have every reason to be satisfied with the way in which the Prince of Tigré has acted towards us. It is not difficult to understand that he should find it inexpedient to leave his capital so shortly after his installation, and while yet his authority is only partially established, as recent intrigues against him have evidenced. His friendly professions have been acted up to by him in a variety of ways.

6. Major Grant and M. Munzinger were accompanied, on their arrival from Adowa on the 7th instant, by the cousin of Prince Kassa, the Leckà Makovas-Aleema, who is said to be a favoured councillor, as well as the blood relation of the Prince. With him there came also a priest named Girra Inkaeel; and a following of about 40 spearmen and 20 musketeers. This deputation from Prince Kassa was received by me the same afternoon in full durbar, and, through the medium of Captain Speedy, we exchanged conversation on all the topics which it was desirable to refer to. The wish of Her Majesty the Queen that amicable relations should be preserved with all friendly Abyssinians, through whose country we passed, was explained on this public occasion; and assurance was given that the persons and property of all such Abyssinians would be carefully protected by me. The real nature and objects of the expedition were explained at the same time.

7. The following morning, the troops in camp (strength as per margin*) were

* Head Quarters, Detachment, 3d Bombay Light Cavalry.
Detachment, Sind Horse.
Penn's Steel Mountain Battery.
Detachment, Royal Engineers.
Head Quarters Wing, 33d Foot.
Head Quarters Detachment, 10th Native Infantry.

Total strength, about 1,200 men.

paraded in the presence of the Chief and his followers. The fire of the mountain guns, as well as the rapidity with which the 3d Bombay Light Cavalry and the Sind Horse charged across the plain, astonished them not a little, and taught them, it is to be hoped, how unwise it would be on their part to reject our friendship. The Chief and the priest, as well as one or two of their principal followers, received from me suitable presents, and returned next day to Adowa, highly pleased, as I have every reason to believe, with their reception. Gifts were also sent by the same opportunity to one or two inhabitants of Adowa, who had shown special civility to the mission.

8. The demeanour towards us of the natives of the country is exceedingly friendly. They very generally say the word "salâm" to us as we pass them on the roads and in the fields; and the numbers in which they repair to our camps to offer for sale what little their country at present yields, is proof of the sincerity of the injunctions which have been laid on them, touching this matter, by their ruler.

9. I visited, a few mornings ago, attended by my Staff, the church of Saint Cherkos, which stands near our camp. The priests received us with courtesy, and described the various objects of interest which the building contains. These consist chiefly of representations of scenes from Scripture history painted on the inner walls. We explained to the priests and people our community of faith, as also, the respect always paid by us as a nation to religious buildings, and institutions of every kind. An altar cloth and silver cup were presented to the church in memory of our visit. A suitable present had also been made by me to the church at Goonagoonah.

10. No communications have been received since the date of my last Despatch from any of the Chiefs of Abyssinia, other than Prince Kassa. Copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Prince of Lasta is appended, marked G. It will be necessary, as we advance, to come to a satisfactory understanding with that Prince, in a similar way as has been done with Prince Kassa.

11. No judgment can be formed as to what reliance may be placed on the rumour mentioned by Mr. Rassam, that Menilek, the King of Shoa, had again moved with hostile intention towards Magdala. Sources of accurate information on this and other points will become available as the army advances.

12. It has been my anxious endeavour to develope to the utmost the food supplying resources of the country lying between the sea and the Abyssinian highlands. If those districts could be made to yield even a sufficiency of forage for the pack animals engaged in transporting our supplies from Annesley Bay to Senafé, I should consider that a great point gained; for it is one of the peculiar difficulties attendant upon this expedition, that our transport animals have very often to carry through considerable tracts of country their own forage. The primitive character of the inhabitants of the districts referred to, their ignorance of commerce, and their speaking a vernacular of their own, called Shoho, with only occasionally Arabic in addition, proved at first a serious obstacle in the way of carrying out this object. A Mahometan gentleman of good position in the Nizam's country, by name Meer Akbar Alee, who had travelled for some years among the tribes of Syria and Central Arabia, and whom, on his volunteering his services on this expedition, I had, with the sanction of the Right Honourable the Governor of Bombay, brought with me in the Intelligence Department, had shown, while at Zoulla, an aptitude for bringing the Shoho tribes into commercial contact with us. On his way up the Koomaylo pass his exertions among the Shohos had met with such success, that I have deputed him to return to those districts and assist Captain Moore, the Arabic interpreter attached to my Staff, in further developing our intercourse with the people of the mountains. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to show fully the result of Captain Moore's mission. But as that Officer reports that at Undall, one of our posts in the pass, where, previous to the first visit of Meer Akbar Alee, no forage was being brought in by the natives at all, it is now being brought in at the rate of seventeen thousand pounds per diem; and at Rarey Guddee, another of our posts, as much as three thousand pounds weight of grass had been brought in during one day, I think that he is justified in stating that his mission has been a success.

13. I have the honour to submit (Appendix H.) copy of an interesting report, by Major Grant, descriptive of the town and population of Adowa, the scene of his mission to Prince Kassa, from which he lately returned.

14. The conduct of the Abyssinians is peaceable and inoffensive. Though we constantly meet bands of them travelling upon the roads, and every Abyssinian, except those of the very poorest class, carries sword and spear, with very often a percussion musket of continental make, yet no case of violence offered to our troops has been reported, excepting in one instance, when the dead body of a muleteer was found near Senafé. The result of the inquiry held in that case seemed to show that the man was a deserter, who had been murdered probably by some Shohos, for the sake of his blanket.

15. The health of the troops is all that could be wished. The nature of the country through which we are advancing is such as to call for the labour of the soldiers, in one form or another, almost at every step. But the admirable spirit which animates all ranks makes them superior to every difficulty that has yet appeared.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosures in No. 27.

APPENDIX A.

COPIES of LETTERS received from Magdalla in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's Camp on the 9th February 1868.

No. 1.

Mr. RASSAM to Brigadier-General-MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel, Magdalla, 16th January 1868.

Since the date of my last letter to you, of the 7th instant, the Emperor has made scarcely any progress hitherto. He has descended a part of the north-western acclivity of the Djidda valley, and now he is busily engaged in repairing the road downwards for the easy transport of his guns and baggage. My interpreter, Omer Alee, was received well by His Majesty, and, after a stay of a week, he sent him back to me with a most polite letter. I send you a copy of it herewith, with a translation, which please keep for me with the other letters. One part of it may seem to you obscure, which refers to my imprisonment. But, on remembering what the Emperor said to me in the dark Treasury at Debra Tabor (wherein we were imprisoned for three days), that he had an object in what he did, then you will find that that object and intercourse are what he will soon realize. Mr. Rosenthal, and other Europeans in the royal camp, have written to say that His Majesty had declared publicly his intention to release me, but no one else. I do not believe this, because I am certain that, if he wishes to be on good terms with me, he would always do what I ask him for, as he did on former occasions, and most assuredly that, if I am out of chains, both Prideaux and Blanc will be included in the same order, as we are looked upon as brothers, and belong to one mission. Moreover, the Emperor has a special hatred towards Cameron and Messrs. Stern and Rosenthal, from which we are exempted. Those three individuals he always calls enemies. At the rate the Emperor is progressing, we do not expect him here before the end of next month, so I hope, if you manage to reach this place before that time, that you will avoid coming into clash with the royal personage until you surround this fortress, which you can easily do, by leaving the districts of Wadela and Delonta on the right after you cross the Tecazze river. I have not heard from you since the 4th of November, and consequently we are in the dark as to your movements. From all we can make out from the reports of the servants of the native prisoners, we fear that the force has not yet left the coast. I have now 22 messengers away, and the two servants who carry this note will make 24, so, if none will return before the end of this month, I shall have to curtail my communications with you henceforth, and send down only once a fortnight, instead of once a week. We are also getting short of money, which obliges me to be stingy. I am very sorry for this, because, just now, I am expected to be liberal, when there is scarcely any money in the country. The detachment which left this place on the 8th instant has received about 400 prisoners from the Emperor to bring here, including the six Europeans. Among the number there are many Chiefs who held important posts in the royal army not many months ago. The favourite Chief Ras (Engada) is amongst those who are chained. Mrs. Rosenthal has also been given over to the commanding Officer of the detachment to bring here. I am glad that His Majesty has taken this step. She being the only English lady in this country, I like to have her with us here. I wish very much that he would send Mr. Flad also, with his family, because we should then be complete.

All the brag of Wagshoom Gobaze has come to nothing. I hope, however, that he will behave as a good friend to your party. I quite forget whether I have asked you before, in case of my death, that you will send all my letters and papers to Mr. Badger. As it is quite impossible to know what any day may bring forth, and I may not be able to write to you again, I shall feel obliged by your rendering me this last favour of collecting, after my death, all my papers which are in Aden, and forwarding them, together with those in your charge, to the said Mr. Badger. I have sent all the letters to Mr. Flad, which reached him quite safe. I enclose you the latest received from him and his wife. They contain scarcely any news. I only send them to you in order that you may know how they are getting on. Poor Flad has been a regular Begaree.* He will be quite skilful in the sapper and miner work when you see him. Please give my kindest regards to Wilkins,† and say that a great potentate is qualifying himself for employment under him. I send you herewith my account current for four months, which please keep with the other papers. I hope that you are by this time near Lasta, and that we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing you.

H. RASSAM.

P.S. Please pay the bearer, Takloo Kidano, and his companions, 20 dollars each for this trip, and pay the former 27 dollars extra, in lieu of some things I purchased from him here, including 7 dollars belonging to one of my messengers called Betool. All my fellow prisoners desire to be remembered to you. Thank God we are all well. (Remembrances.)

17th January.—News reached this place yesterday that the Emperor had arrived at the bottom of the valley of the Djidda river, and to-morrow or the day after he will begin to ascend the south-eastern side. We have also heard that Menelek, the new King of Shoa, has left his country on his way hither. I suppose, as soon as he hears that the dreaded Theodorus is in the neighbourhood of Magdalla, he will retrace his steps to the old capital of Shoa, Ankeobar. It is said that he is now coming with a proper arrangement for a long stay. We shall see what he will do this time.

Enclosure A. to above.

Letter from Emperor THEODORUS to Mr. RASSAM, as translated by latter into English;
13th January 1868.

(After compliments.) Ask Mr. Cameron, Dr. Blanc, Mr. Prideaux, and all your brothers; how they have passed the time from me. By the power of God I am coming to you. O, my friend, do not think that I have any hatred towards you. Be of good cheer. That I might have intercourse with the people of your country, I have placed you in your present position. The friendship that I have always felt towards you has not been diminished. When God grants that we should meet, we will talk to each other from the heart (freely). God knows that I have no real hatred towards you.

Enclosure B.

Mrs. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

Bet Hor, 8th January 1868.

I feel pleasure in once more being permitted to write a few lines to you. Hitherto it was thought unadvisable to send up much paper. I am always thankful to hear of your cheerfulness under your prolonged trials, which I hope and pray the Lord will bring to a happy issue for all of us. As my husband expects Her Majesty will dismiss your messengers to-morrow, he bade me write a little in answer to your last kind note. First of all, he says, many thanks for the letters, which came safely to his hand. We can truly say that we rejoice, though it is with mixed fear and hope. What will be the result when our friend will hear about it? But our Heavenly Father, who has kept us under so many trials and perils, will be able to clear away all that as yet makes us feel anxious for the future. My husband was very glad to learn from Munzinger's letter, that his correspondence with Colonel Merewether and with the Foreign Office has been requested by the Parliament, as it will at least prove that he has not played a duplicate part. He would surely not like to be thought a servant of the King. Much might be said about our present feelings, but please God we may be soon having the pleasure of joining you there. His Majesty seems to be in a great hurry to get that road done down the bank this side the Djidda. From the earliest dawn of the morning until the dark of the evening sets in, my husband is away, as well as the other of the Europeans, and especially of late it would seem to us as if the Lord had forsaken us and given us over to perish. But praised be His holy name. He never puts a greater trial upon us, or lets it remain longer upon our shoulders than we are able to bear it. We feel now new hope inspired again, and though we would not admit that we feel at all comfortable, we still must own that we enjoy daily mercies which many of our fellow creatures are deprived of. We are now again able to get some provisions and cloths in the market, as the people of Dahont and Dalanta have submitted to His Majesty.* During the whole of last week there was exchanged only 1½

* *Vide infra.* salt for a dollar; since two days we get again six blocks. I can scarcely tell you what a source of misery it was to us to submit to the plundering of our servants; they were almost getting our masters. Goolja will by this time take the articles to you that my husband had given him to take care of * * * (Domestic matters). O with what yearning anxiety do I look forward to get my children redeemed from this state of barbarism we are in at present.

Yours, &c.,

P. FLAD.

P.S. January 9th.—Your servants have been expecting to be dismissed by the King, but it is now getting evening, and to all appearance His Majesty will be sending to-morrow. A great part of the prisoners have had their foot-chains opened, and have instead, received hand-chains, ready to be sent to the fortress. Amongst them are the European prisoners. As to our own fate, we are quite in the dark. They are working desperately at the road. My poor husband has not been able to come home from early this morning, when he had written a few hasty lines to you, nor was it at all possible to send him some food, as the King was all the day near them himself, fasting and working like ——. I am confident that the Lord has not forgotten the cry of the desolate. He will surely come to our relief * * * (Domestic matters).

Enclosure C.

From Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

9th January 1868.

You will excuse me for not writing this time. Last evening I was packing and arranging things which have to go, and now I have to go down to His Majesty to assist the Europeans in boring and firing the rocks, which are in His Majesty's way. It will be an excellent road now for our friends. Yesterday, I received all your notes, and the letter of the 29th December. I can only say, many, many hearty thanks, God's name be praised! But what shall have become of the letter to His Majesty. Also many thanks for the excellent brandy, it will be a good medicine for us until we have passed Djidda and Bashello. I can't give you a list of the things I am sending. I hope everything will reach safely * * * * * (Domestic references).

T. M. FLAD.

No. 2.

Mr. RASSAM to Brigadier-General MEREWETHER; Magdalla, 17th January 1868.

It is now nearly three months since I have heard from you, and I fear that my messengers have been seized by some rebels on their way back. Please send us some money quickly, because we have a few dollars left. The Emperor has written to me a most kind letter, wherein he assures me of his unceasing friendship. He is now in the Djidda valley, and may be with us any day.

Thank God, both my fellow prisoners and myself are well.

H. RASSAM.

No. 3.

From Dr. BLANC to General MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdalla, 17th January 1868.

Penny-a-liner style.—The storm, exhausted by its own fury, our frail skiff, tossed for months among the billows of political strife, sailed once more in quiet waters. Hardly had the blue rays of hope gladdened our sails, when all at once the clouded horizon, shrouded with its darkest mantle, cast a gloom over our prospects, and we found ourselves again drifting helpless and forlorn, this time, towards the very vortex of the cyclone. In other words, Bob is creeping on. Not a soul in the rank and file is aware of your whereabouts, not even Caesar. There is not the slightest doubt about that; when Jupiter *tonans* will appear in his armour of steel and pass the question, then *nous verrons*. I see from the Indian papers that public works are the order of the day in *quasi* Bomba's dominions; blasting is said to be heard from morning till night in those perpendicular ravines, that only obstacle at present to the free communication between the plains and the large dépôts. The eminent personage above mentioned, is no doubt a follower of McCulloch, and justly considers good roads as the arteries of nations. Progress is, however, slow. Some say one, some two, months will be required. I hope so, and at the same time am very anxious to see the fable of La Fontaine on the race between the turtle and the hare reversed on this occasion. Not 100 miles

* *i. e.*, Magdalla.

from the beat of policeman No. 51,321,441,* a mob has lately been seen of would be Frank Mullers, poor deluded Pats taken from the plough, armed with anything like breech-loaders, and supporting themselves and their numerous squaws (from six to ten for one brave) by involuntary contributions. The drought, the banditti, and other causes have so greatly diminished their cattle, that few of the noble steeds are at present seen grazing near their wigwams, and the steady-footed cross-bred is but scantily replaced by its more obstinate parent. Never mind all this nonsense; only remember that though we pity the butterfly for burning its wings in the flame, we can but confess that it is a fool.—*A bon entendeur salut.*

Now let me give you the little news we have. A week ago, 700 of the soldiers of this garrison started for the Imperial camp, Belwada Damash in command. He has received charge of the prisoners, 190, and will bring them here in a few days. Mrs. Rosenthal, I am happy to say, is coming with them. Those bad people, the peasants of Dahont, have abandoned their good intention, and have decidedly thrown off their allegiance to His Majesty. But I am happy to say that a portion of the inhabitants of Dalanta have been endowed with better sense, and again acknowledge their lawful sovereign. His Majesty's great gun is said to be indeed wonderful. Two men, it is said, can sit in it. It will be quite a treat for us to admire it. I cannot tell you if it has as yet been fired. Grain is just now rather scarce in camp, but on the other hand salts are now obtainable at the rate of six for a dollar. All the Europeans are well, and stand in high court favour. The five who, in their ingratitude, wanted to run away, have had their foot chains opened, and are now simply tied by the hand. We are all, thank God, pretty well, and, more strange to say, no

rows. Flad is certainly a brick. He is the only one who keeps us up to the doings of our brethren. Madame Flad expects an *accroissement de famille* before long.

Remembrances, &c.

BLANC.

Cipher Letter from above to above; 17th January 1868.

Stern's pamphlet in Bardel's hands. Should consequences follow, he desires you to be aware of the fact.

APPENDIX B.

Précis of latest Information received from interior of Abyssinia; 11th February 1868.

Information has been received of the prisoners at Magdala up to 17th January, and of those in the King's camp up to 9th January.

All the prisoners were well. A detachment of troops left Magdala on 8th January, joined the King in his camp, and were to return to Magdala with about 400 prisoners. The imprisoned Europeans were among the number; their leg fetters had been removed, and handcuffs substituted, so that they might march. It is understood Mrs. Rosenthal would accompany them.

There is nothing in the information received from which we are enabled to judge either how far the King apprehends the present posture of affairs, or what course he intends to follow.

The King was using every endeavour to get the road towards Magdala made; working with his own hands, and making the free Europeans help. He had made some slight progress, and had arrived at the bottom of the valley of the Djedda River. It is calculated he would reach Magdala about the end of February with his camp, though, by abandoning the latter, he could any day arrive there. The people of Dalanta continue submissive to him; but those of Dacont had again refused to submit to him. His soldiers were suffering from scarcity of provisions and transport.

It was reported in Magdala that Menilek, the King of Shoa, had again set out for Magdala, better prepared to act against Theodorus than on his former visit.

A detailed communication from one of the captives, sent to friends in England, and there published, has by some means reached the King's camp, and is in the hands of M. Bardel. Apprehensions are entertained that he will use it to injury of the prisoners.

W. TWEEDIE, Lieutenant,

Political Secretary to His Excellency the
Commander-in-Chief.

APPENDIX C.

COPIES of LETTERS from Major GRANT, C.B., on Special Mission to Adowa, in continuation of his Letter of the 1st February, Copy of which accompanied His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's Despatch, dated the 5th idem.

No. 1.

Demi-Official, to Political Secretary to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

My dear Tweedie,

Adowa, 3d February 1868.

Would you please tell His Excellency the contents of this letter. Since forwarding my official, dated the 1st instant, and despatched in the early morning of the 2d, we have had three interviews with Prince Kassa, namely:—

First interview.—A private one. The letter of His Excellency was read, and translated to the Prince, who made a long reply, saying that his ancestors had always been on terms of friendship with the English, and that he wished also to continue this friendship; that he would assist us in getting cattle and grain; that he had intended to send an embassy to England before the war began; and that our arrival in the country had given him the opportunity of becoming acquainted with us. In his reply, he made no allusion to going to meet His Excellency. I therefore put the question, and a general reply was given, that it would require time to prepare such an interview. He now said we might retire. An hour after this, Mr. Gabroo Parke came to our house, to say that, in one month, his Prince would accompany us to the English camp, and that the mission would remain here during this time. We pointed out the absurdity of such an arrangement to Mr. Gabroo, who returned to the Prince, and mentioned our conversation, the pith of which was, that it would be quite impossible for us to delay the army longer, and that we must march to our head quarters at Adtigrat upon the 4th, with whatever reply the Prince decided upon sending by us.

Second interview.—A public one, at noon of the 2d. The object of this was, to see the poor of the town and country fed with bread and wine in the presence of the Prince. We had long conversations with the brother (elder) of the Prince, and other Chiefs, and a few casual remarks were

made to us by the Prince himself. Several Chiefs and singers praised the English in public, and the assemblage broke up, leaving the Prince, ourselves, and a few others. We stated to him that we should be sorry to return without him, and he gave us some hope that he should accompany us; but, upon our requesting him to give us a promise, the reply was, that we had all been drinking, and that he would be able to give us a reply in the morning. Thus ended the second interview.

Third interview, this day, the 3d; a private one.—We had waited at home all morning, expecting to be called, when the High Priest called us to the Prince, at eleven a.m. He was seated upon his couch, with His Excellency's presents of shawls and rugs spread out as carpets and covers.

* A present from His Excellency. We were asked to make the musical box* play, and, "Had we anything to say to the Prince?" We replied, "We wish to know what the Prince has decided upon." "He has decided that, in a fortnight, he will be prepared to accompany us to the camp of His Excellency." We requested that this might be put upon paper, and it was ordered accordingly, one copy to be sent to Senafé, and the other to Adtigrat,—both by special messenger. The Prince was anxious to know when he could get a reply, and now asked us when we wished to leave this, and by what route. We fixed upon noon of to-morrow, and direct to Adtigrat. We again mentioned the intention of His Excellency to have depôts or small posts at different points of the road in his territory, for the purpose of collecting supplies and facilitating postal arrangements, the same to remain at these posts till the conclusion of the war. The answer to this was, that he would consult his advisers, and give us his reply when we came to take leave of him in the morning. We have pointed out to the Prince the advantage an interview with His Excellency would be to him and to his subjects. The Prince quite understands this, but says that his "big drum,"—his reign,—only commenced in reality upon the 1st instant, when he gave his great darbar in our presence. It is contrary to the custom, he says, of princes, to leave their home for a month after this great event.

I would also mention that we have not yet received the letter of the Prince above alluded to, and that I write at such length because the movements of His Excellency need not be impeded by us any longer.

Remembrances, &c.

J. A. GRANT.

No. 2.

Official, from same to same.

Sir,

Camp, Mai Gavettu, 5th February 1868.

In continuation of my demi-official, giving the details of three interviews with Prince Kassa, I have the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency, that, before leaving Adowa yesterday, the Prince gave us a final interview. He again expressed regret that it would take so much time to prepare his troops for such a journey, and also that, by custom, he could not leave the vicinity of his capital for forty days.

We sent his reply to His Excellency to Senafé. In it we understand his reasons were given for not complying with the request of His Excellency. A copy of the reply is being conveyed to General Merewether, C.B., at Adtegrat.

The Prince presented a horse as a gift to His Excellency.

He presented each of us with a mule, a silk shirt, a sheet, and a "lamd,"—a skin worn round the neck. The mission has certainly had a good effect, and has taught the Prince and his people that they need not distrust us. We marched 24 miles yesterday, and fully expect to be in camp, Adtegrat, on Thursday, the 6th.

J. A. GRANT, Major.

APPENDIX D.

Copy of Translation of Letter from DEJAZMAJ KASSA to Sir R. NAPIER.

The letter you sent me by Major Grant and Consul Munzinger has reached me. Your present having pleased me has been accepted by me. But I should like to see each other from eye to eye, and to speak together what is in our heart. I stayed here till to-day, waiting till we meet, and to receive you, to conduct you on and to speak you my mind. I had no other business. Now I will start in two weeks. As to the markets you wish to have established, in the places where you will camp, I will have proclaimed an arwadj (proclamation), and will help with all my power.

L. S. 26, Fere Adawe (4th February 1868).

APPENDIX E.

Copy of Translation of Letter from DEJAZMAJ KASSA to General MEREWETHER, C. B.; 5th February 1868.

The answer to my letter has reached me and has pleased me. You know that I have waited till now, many days for you. Now don't begrudge to me for two weeks. It is you who are my first

friend, make me now friends with Sir R. Napier. Manage it somehow, that we may see each other eye to eye, and may speak our hearts. I will proclaim a proclamation for establishing markets at the camps, and will help with all my power.

APPENDIX F.

Copy of Translation of Letter from His Excellency Sir ROBERT NAPIER to DEJAZMAJ KASSA;
Camp Adtegrat, 7th February 1868.

We have heard from Major Grant and Mr. Munzinger of the friendly and honourable manner in which you received those gentlemen, and we are in receipt of your letter of the 3d February, for all of which we thank you much.

We arrived here on the 6th, and would, as we before said, have been very glad to have had an interview with you at once, but as you say you cannot conveniently start for two weeks from the time of your writing, we now, in the desire that we should meet face to face, reply that we will be happy to assent to your request, and that on the tenth day from this time, we will leave for the province of Haramat, and meet you there, understanding that would be most suitable for both.

Tej Murcha Warke has been most useful. We thank you for sending him, and would wish still to retain him near us.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

APPENDIX G.

Copy of Translation of Letter from His Excellency Sir ROBERT NAPIER to DEJAZMAJ GOBAZE;
Camp Adtegrat, 7th February 1868.

We before wrote to you from Senafé. We now send a messenger to inform you that we have arrived here, and are sending on our troops towards Magdala.

We are daily in expectation of hearing from you in reply to our former letter, and we would now ask you to send quickly to us information as to what is going on, and what arrangements you are making.

We trust to your friendship to give us early news, now and always.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

APPENDIX H.

Notes on the Position, Products, and People of Adowa.

Adwa or Adowa, the principal town of the provinces of Tigré, is the residence of the Prince of the country, and lies in a valley 6,000 feet above the level of the sea. The town is built upon three prominences of the spur of a hill, which is thinly wooded. The River Assam, which rises in the hills a few miles to the north, runs through a rocky course along the base of the spur, and the river Mai Goga or Mai Gagwa joins it from a westerly direction at a point close below the higher part of the town. The supply of water is, therefore, ample and good all the year round. The town has no defences, and can be entered from every side, except the western or lowest portion, where the rock is precipitous and overhanging the river, giving the town a fortified appearance at this point. The houses are built of stone upon the tops and slopes of the ridge, and are generally surrounded by stone walls 10 feet high. The streets are very narrow and circuitous, no sanitary measures are adopted to keep them clean in the dry season, and all refuse is cast upon them. There is a convent and three churches, all have burying grounds attached, and a burying ground for Mussulmans is across the river. The convent is called Madhanee-Alum, *i.e.*, the Saviour of the World. It was built by Dejatch Shabagadis, the former ruler of Tigre, who intended to have roofed it with lead, but he was killed along with a son in battle by the Gallas. The ground on which it stands, as well as some in its vicinity, is church property, and all residents or others who may commit a crime have the right of protection, when within these limits, from the officials of the convent. The churches are Kooddis Gubriel (Holy Gabriel) Kooddis Michael and Mariam Datchen, more commonly called Damariam (Mary's Zion).

There are five or six schools, where the Psalms, the Scriptures, the ceremonies of the church, and singing are taught. The blind are instructed in learning by heart, and children are taught to read.

There is a large market place upon the north side of the town, a green sward. Here every Saturday are exposed for sale all the products and manufactures of the districts, namely, ponies, donkeys mules, cattle, sheep, goats, fowls, bar and block salt, ghee and butter, barley, wheat, grain, jowaree (red and white) millets, dal and beans, hides, honey, herbs, spices, vegetables, iron, earthen-

ware, blankets, cotton stuffs, ornaments in beads, copper and iron, &c. ; besides this weekly market, wood, grass, and grains, &c., are brought for sale every day except on the Sabbath.

Every one eats the flesh of cattle, sheep, and goats, but when they are slaying the animal they, like Mussulmans, repeat a prayer, namely, they say, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." Sometimes the meat is cooked, and at other times it is raw. They will eat every part of an animal uncooked, but the choice bits in succession are the flesh along the vertibræ, the tongue, and the round or leg. When eating, the servant cuts the meat into small pieces with a peculiar shaped knife, and these are then eaten with the fingers.

Several kinds of bread are made, according to the species of grain used. The best and whitest in colour is made from the millet called *teff*. This grain, after being ground and sifted, is fermented, and then placed to be baked upon a huge girdle of earthenware, the result is a flabby honey-combed cake, tasting pleasantly bitter. Another bread, called "*humbassha*," is made of flour of any description into a thick heavy round cake. The poor make their bread also in the above manner, but of inferior grains, such as "*dagoossa*," the bread from this is dark in colour.

The people drink spirituous liquors in considerable quantities. "*Meed*" or "*mess*," namely, honey wine, is made from honey alone, they convert this "*meed*" into a fiery spirit called "*arakee*," which is colourless, very well flavoured, and forms a pleasant liquor. A port wine coloured drink, called "*youtuj*," said to be sweet, thick, and strong, is made in April from the juice of the grape, the lower classes make beer from corn, barley, or "*dagoossa*," which beer is sometimes converted into "*arakee*" by distillation.

As a rule, no smoking was observed, but every one seemed to take snuff, which they procure from Massowah.

The population of Adowa may consist of 10,000, of whom 300 are Mahomedans, who weave the spun cotton into sheets or shawls. While the mission was there, a large number, say 1,500, poor, blind, lame, and diseased had assembled to be fed. The diseases amongst them were leprosy, small pox, and blindness, one or two cases of *gôitre*, called "*unkurtee*," were also seen. This disease is more common amongst the people of Amharra, and Mishero. "*Scrofula*" is not uncommon. Cholera visited Adowa last year, and carried off a considerable number of people, probably 700.

The manufacturers of Adowa are few. The women spin the cotton into thread, and the Mahomedan class convert it into sheets, which are soft and comfortable to wear. Blankets are made by the people who live in higher altitudes, with their flocks of sheep. Leather is prepared at Adowa, and made into shields, saddlery, shoes, &c., and there are workers in silver, brass, copper, and iron. Gunpowder may also be made there, and iron bullets, but the bullet much used is of a greasy stone, considered by them to be as soft material as lead. Swords are also manufactured.

The common arm of the country is the curved sword and shield, or the spear, which is balanced by lead at the hand end, but amongst the cavalry and infantry we observed percussion guns, pistols, and matchlocks. No artillery, nor any gun larger than an elephant one, was seen by the embassy.

The troops present at the capital may have numbered 1,500, of all arms, they appear to have had no instruction whatever in drill, are dressed and armed without regard, to uniformity, but have sufficient physique to travel long distances, over difficult country.

The Prince has a Frenchman* as his armourer, and speaks highly of him as to character. He had been with Wagshoom Gobazyé in the same capacity, and from the interviews we had with him, we considered he had acquired great knowledge of the country and its people. He can converse in the Tigré and Amharic languages pretty well. Having passed two years of his life in this country, he took the opportunity of the presence of the French Consul, my companion, M. Munzinger, to solicit his discharge, which was granted. Besides this European, there is a Greek mechanic, who, however, did not show any intelligence.

J. A. GRANT, Major, C.B.,
Intelligence Department.

Names of a few of the principal Chiefs who attended the public Durbar at Adowa, upon the 1st of February 1868.

Dejatch Kassa, Ruler and Prince on the throne.

The following on carpets at his feet:—

- Dejatch (Duke), Gooksa (elder and only brother of the Prince).
- Dejatch Gubra Michael (more commonly called Garracheel), of Surra, &c., &c.
- Dejatch Heila Mara, Shoom or Governor of Soolwa, &c.
- Dejatch Gareggeé, of Tembien.
- Dejatch Gooksa, of Tembien.
- Dejatch Hagoss, of Guralta.
- Dejatch Hagoss, of Tembien.
- Dejatch Hagoss, of Barukwa.
- Dejatch Gera Medhin (formerly the Ruler of Koolloogoozai).
- Shoom Tambien Allôola.
- Shoom (Chief or Goor) Tambien. Wahid (uncle to Kassa).
- Shoom Agamee Zussoo.
- Baraow (surname, *i. e.*, his slave), of Guralta.
- The Balamboras (Collector of Taxes) of Adiaboh.

The Nivreet (Governor) Gubroovet, of Axoom.

Balgada (a high title given to the Commander and leader of a salt cafila) Welda Selasieh, Balgada Argoo.

Kassa Abokaisee (the name of his horse kaisee, being the serpent), of Kooloogoozai.

Belat-in-gaita (title of Private Secretary) Gara Medhin.

P.S.—In the vicinity of Adowa, and one mile to the south of the town, there is an interesting and ancient fort called Fremona, or, as the natives name it, from the stream, Maigoga, or Mai Gwagwa. The possession of it by an army would be essential. It commands wide valleys of cultivation on every side, except, of course, the rocky ridge upon which it stands. It has loop-holed walls, with bastions at intervals, and with slight repair might be made to hold out against any number of natives.

J. A. GRANT, Major, C.B.

Camp Adtegerat, 14th February 1868.

Sir ROBERT NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,

Right Honourable Sir, 15th February 1868.

In continuation of my Despatch dated 16th ultimo, referring to the conduct of Hussein Beg, Governor of Massowah, I have the honour to transmit, for your information, copy of a letter, No. 28, under date 25th idem, received from Colonel Stanton, Agent and Consul General, Egypt, in reply to the Despatch which I had addressed to him.

have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure.

Colonel STANTON to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, K.C.B., &c.

Sir, Cairo, January 25th, 1868.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 15th instant, transmitting, for my information, a copy of a letter from Brigadier-General Merewether, regarding the conduct of the Governor of Massowah, as also a copy of a note addressed by your Excellency to Abdool Kadir Pasha; and I beg to inform your Excellency that I will bring this matter to the notice of the Viceroy, with the view of obtaining the removal of the Governor of Massowah at the earliest possible moment. I have already requested an audience of His Highness, but in consequence of the fêtes of the Bairam, I shall not be able to see His Highness on this subject before the 28th instant.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD STANTON,
Agent and Consul General.

Postscript to Sir R. NAPIER's Despatch dated the 14th instant.

Camp Addigrat, 17th February 1868.

I have just received intelligence from Brigadier-General Merewether, C.B., whom I had deputed to do what could be done towards developing the resources of the country on the line between this post and Antalo. He had previously been successful in inducing the nomade tribes in the neighbourhood of the pass, and also the Abyssinians themselves on this side Senafé, to come forward and undertake the carriage of our supplies with their bullocks. He has just reported his having concluded a similar convention with two villages, one Mussulman, the other Christian, on the line of our advance. Such assistance is inconsiderable in its extent, of course, in proportion to the amount of transport required. Neither can its permanency be relied on. Still, every such contribution that can be drawn from the resources of the country is a very valuable point gained. 800 bags of grain, representing some 50,000 pounds' weight of flour, rice, and dhal, have just been delivered at Camp Agoola, having been conveyed there from this place by means of local transport. These will be conveyed on to Antalo, as soon as a new convention on the subject of local transport is concluded at Agoola. Every endeavour is, of course, being made to buy up grain at Agoola, but I have not yet received a list of purchases actually made.

A letter has been received from the brother of the Chief of Endarta, offering guides and assistance.

A messenger has carried a report to General Merewether, that Wagsboom Gobazeh is at Sagoolsaf, about eight miles west of Lallibella; and that Theodorus is said to have turned off in that direction, and approached close to Gobazeh, as if to attack him. Gobazeh's position is said to be a strong one.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 28.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 10th March).

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp Attegrat,
7th February 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Reverend Dr. Krapf, who it will be remembered was engaged as Amharic Dragoman with the Abyssinian Expedition, in terms of an agreement, of which a copy is attached for ready reference, has lost his health in the performance of his duties, and has been recommended by his medical attendant immediately to proceed to Europe.

2. In those circumstances, I have been reluctantly obliged to allow him to quit the expedition. I say reluctantly, because Dr. Krapf has been reported to have rendered very valuable service while serving with the Expedition. His conciliatory manner towards the people, high character and considerable local knowledge, not less than the assiduity with which he has devoted himself to his work, have already justified his having been appointed to the expedition, and it will be difficult to supply his place.

3. The terms on which he is to be remunerated, having thus become a question for consideration, I would recommend in the special circumstances, that a liberal view of Dr. Krapf's case should be taken. Although, strictly speaking, he may not be considered entitled to the honorarium which he was to have received at the close of the expedition, yet, considering Dr. Krapf's advanced age, and that he has lost his health in the performance of duties which were greater than his strength was equal to in a tropical climate, I trust that the whole sum will be granted to him, if not in acknowledgment of his services, at least as compensation to him for his lost health.

4. Arrangements have been made for furnishing Dr. Krapf with a free passage from Zoulla to Suez. A sum of 145*l.* sterling has further been paid to him, viz., 45*l.* on account of his travelling expenses between Suez and his home (*viâ* Trieste) and 100*l.* being one-third of the unpaid portion of his stipend.

5. I trust Her Majesty's Government, will, in the circumstances above detailed, see fit to order the payment to Dr. Krapf of the remaining 200*l.*, and cause intimation to that effect to be conveyed to him.

6. A copy of a medical statement of Dr. Krapf's case by his medical attendant is hereto appended.

I have, &c.,
R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinian Expeditionary
Force.

Enclosure 1 in No. 28.

The Under Secretary of State for India to Sir R. NAPIER.

Vide Blue Book, No. 667.

Enclosure 2 in No. 28.

Camp, Senafé, 3d February 1868.

I certify that I have attended Dr. Krapf, who has been suffering from chronic diarrhoea and intermittent fever for some time past, and I consider that a longer residence in this country will, very likely, be attended with serious results to him.

W. JAY,
Staff Assistant Surgeon.

No. 29.

Lieutenant-General Sir ROBERT NAPIER, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., to the Secretary of State for India in Council (received 10th March 1868).

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Right Honourable Sir, Camp, Addigerat, 16th February 1868.

Major Grant and M. Munzinger returned from Adowa, whither I had sent them on a mission to Kussai, Prince of Tigre, on the 7th February. At Adowa they met with a very flattering reception, Major Grant's report of which is forwarded by this mail. The Prince of Tigre was unable to return with them to visit me at this camp, as he could not leave his capital so soon after his installation on the throne. He sent a relative, however, with Major Grant, as his representative. This Envoy I received in durbar, and expressed to him the desire of Her Majesty's Government to be upon friendly terms with the rulers and people of Abyssinia through whose districts the line of our march lies. I also held a review of the troops at Addigerat on the following day, by the appearance of which, especially of the Cavalry, he and his following seemed to be much impressed.

I expect to have an interview with Kussai on the 20th, at Ad Abaga, two marches in advance of this place, from which I expect to obtain tangible results in the maintenance of our friendly relations with his people, and the security of our convoys in their passage through his dominions. This is very essential, as, if our convoys were liable to be attacked they would require large escorts, and the number of troops on the highland must be considerably increased. With this object, I intend to leave Addigerat on the 18th. I shall take with me the Head Quarters of the 3d Light Cavalry, half of Murray's Battery of Royal Artillery, the Head Quarter Wing of the 1st Battalion, 4th King's Own Regiment, the Head Quarters and two companies of the 10th Native Infantry, and the 4th Company of the Bombay Sappers and Miners.

The Pioneer Force, consisting of 75 sabres 3d Light Cavalry, 75 sabres Scinde Horse, two companies 10th Native Infantry, one company of the 23d Pioneers, and one company Bombay Sappers and Miners, has occupied Antalo. This place is eight marches south of my present camp. The communication between Antalo and Addigerat is maintained by 180 sabres of the Scinde Horse, who are distributed in small detachments along the road at convenient posts, and are also available for postal duties.

Brigadier Collings left here on the 11th, with the Head Quarter Wing of the 33d Regiment and one steel mountain battery, and one month's provisions for this force. He may be expected to arrive at Antalo on the 19th.

The position of all the troops in Abyssinia is shown by the enclosed distribution report. My halt at this place has been necessary, in order to direct the arrangements for the onward movements, without going too far out of reach of the base of operations at Zoulla, with which easy communication is maintained; but the advance of the troops, and consequently my own progress, could have been unquestionably much more rapid, had it not been for the deficient state of my Transport Service. The advance of the force has depended entirely on that Department, and our present progress has been quite as rapid, and in as great numbers, as will admit of our being supplied with food at Antalo.

The telegraph is complete and open between Zoulla and Senafé, but I regret to say not yet free from frequent interruptions. The road to Senafé, as I have previously reported, has been for some time practicable for wheeled carriage, and to-day the road from Senafé to this place has also been made practicable, though with difficulty, for artillery. The road to the front between this place and Antalo is in some portions very bad, but many working parties are employed upon it, and in a few days it also will be practicable for the passage of artillery.

I have taken measures for the security of the important post of Senafé. This place, Addigerat, is also an important strategical point on our line of communications. It commands the junction of the roads to Adowa and to Antalo. I have selected a naturally strong position for a permanent post here, and have taken the precaution of increasing its naturally defensive capabilities by breastworks and intrenchments, which cover the water supply, and secure it from any chance of molestation.

At Dongolo, midway between here and Antalo, I propose to establish another post, and a fourth at Antalo itself.

The following is a copy of the Controller's Report of the Transport Corps, dated 14th February 1868:—

Camels	-	-	-	-	2,363
Mules	-	-	-	-	8,848
Bullocks, pack	-	-	-	-	976
Ditto, draught	-	-	-	-	463

Total	-	-	-	-	12,650
Deduct sick	-	-	-	-	2,631

Total reported efficient - - - - - 10,019

There are 194 Indian carts at work, and 177 Maltese. Of the mules and ponies, about 4,000 are engaged in the transport between Senafé and the front. The remainder, the camels, and the carts, ply between the base of operations and Senafé. There are at Zoola about 100 Maltese carts. These are not at present at work, but I have sent orders that the largest and strongest pack mules should be picked out, and sent immediately to horse these vehicles. It will be seen, however, that the number of transport animals is far inferior to that originally requested.

400 despatched.
100 lost by wreck.
200 remaining.

The chain of our communication is already very long for our limited means, which are further cramped by the large proportion of the sick list. Animals which are sent as reinforcements arrive not in masses, so as to allow of a homogeneous reformation of the transport train, but, coming in dribblets, hardly suffice to repair the periodical casualties due to sickness and caused by over work. I am sparing no exertions to bring quickly to Zoulla a sufficient supply of transport animals. On our facilities for transport depend the progress of the campaign, and it must be long or short, according as animals are supplied slowly or quickly. They must be eventually obtained, and it is the wisest economy, if they are obtained at once. It must be remembered that this country is so devastated by the late intestine tumults, and so poverty stricken, that, though we apparently readily obtain all the supplies the inhabitants can spare, all the supplies we can obtain do not even feed the men left as the detached garrisons of the posts on the line of communication. Meat and firewood can be indeed obtained in tolerable plenty, but, for all other supplies, the marching troops must depend on the transport train, which must also carry up from the shipping all the grain consumed, not only by the horses and animals of the combatant branches of the service, but also the provender of its own transport animals. Thus, the conveyance of the baggage and *materiel* of the moving columns, which, in other theatres of war, is the main duty of the transport train, becomes here an infinitesimally small portion of its labours. It is the conveyance of food and supplies which taxes its resources, and causes it to require such a high numerical strength. No local transport can be obtained in any large quantity. By great exertions, *sixty-four* mules have been purchased at Addigerat, but this number does not seem likely to be exceeded. Contracts have been made with the natives, for the transport of supplies by native bullocks, but this source of transport is precarious, and cannot be obtained sufficiently plentifully to take much pressure off the transport train.

The troops in advance of Addigerat have with them from a fortnight's to three weeks' provisions. Those at Addigerat will advance with a similar supply.

At present, in round numbers, the troops and followers on the highlands may be said to consume 10,000 rations, or 270 mule loads daily, and to be supplied for a fortnight; while the number of rations daily delivered at Senafé may be estimated at 20,000, so that at Senafé a daily surplus of 10,000 rations is collected.

At this rate, it would require six months to collect six months' provisions for the few troops at present on the highland, but the long expected animals from Bombay, and some camels from Berbera, will considerably increase the supply.

The health and spirits of the troops continue excellent, notwithstanding the severe toil of working parties, and heavy marching to which they have been subjected. The climate is cool and agreeable. In the daytime, the thermometer averages from 70° to 80° Fahrenheit in the shade; at night, it often sinks to freezing point, and sometimes even lower.

There is no sickness worth speaking of on the highland.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 29.

DISTRIBUTION RETURN of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force this day.

Camp Addigerat, 16th February 1868.

Stations.	Cavalry of all Ranks.	Artillery of all Ranks.	Engineers of all Ranks.	Infantry of all Ranks.	Departments.
Zoulla.	Bengal - - - 136* Dismounted men of 3d Light Ca- valry - - - 94	525, R. A. - - - 124	Madras Sappers and Miners - - - 124	45th Foot - - - 831 2d Bombay N. I. - - 716 18th Bombay N. I. - 716 Wing 21st Punjab Pioneers 369 " 25d " " - 407	Engineer Park. Ordnance Park. Commissariat Head Quarters Railway ditto. Army Works Corps ditto.
Koomaylee and the Passes.	* Bengal Cavalry will be moved from Zoulla.	G/14, R. A. (wag- gons) - - - 42	Bombay Sappers and Miners - - - 116 Madras ditto - - - 130 Detachment 10th Com- pany, R. E. - - - 10	3d Regiment N. I. - - 716 Wing 21st Punjab - 429 Detachment Marine Bat- talion - - - 90	Head Quarters, Transport Train. Detachment, ditto.
Senafé (now un- der orders or actually there.)	Bengal Cavalry - 272 3d Light Cavalry - 57 Scinde Horse - 25	Bombay Native Artillery Moun- tain Train - 94	Detachment 10th Com- pany, R. E. - - - 17	Wing 33d Regiment - - 415 Wing 4th K. O. Regiment 312 Wing 10th Regiment, N. I. 330 " 25th " N. L. I. 398	Division Land Transport Train. Large Commissariat Depot. Depot of Engineers. Stores.
Addigerat.	Head Quarters 3d Light Cavalry - 183	G/14, R. A., Head Quarters (guns) 100	10th Company, R. E. - 54 Two Companies Bom- bay Sappers and Miners - - - 200	Head Quarters, Wing 4th " " Wing 10th " " N. I. - 235 " " Wing Be- looch - 525 Wing 25th N. L. I.* - 398	Commissariat Depot.
Between Addige- rat and Antalo.	3d Light Cavalry - 77 3d Sind Horse - 105 Ditto - - - 88	321, R. A., Steel Mountain Bat- tery - - - 121	Bombay Sappers and Miners - - - 118	Head Quarters 33d Regi- ment - - - 430 10th Regiment N. I. - 144 23d Punjab - 89 Belooch Battalion - 177	
Under orders for the front from Zoulla.†	Bengal Cavalry - 408 3d Dragoon Guards 220	521, R. A., Steel Mountain Bat- tery - - - 121	One Company Madras Sappers and Miners - 124	23d Punjab Pioneers - 264	
Detachments be- tween Senafé and Gooso Plain, Goona Goona, and Fo- kado.	3d Light Cavalry - 100 Scinde Horse - 135				
Total of all ranks	Cavalry - - - 1,900	Artillery - - - 608	Engineers - - - 899	Infantry - - - 8,364	
Grand Total - - - 11,771					

* Expected.

† N.B.—The Naval Brigade, mustering 100, is also under orders.

Public Followers, 14,272, including Land Transport Muleteers, &c., 8,000, and Commissariat, 1,900, and Army Works Establishment, 750.

Sick troops (British) - - - 92
" " (Native) - - - 233
" " (Followers) - - - 390

N.B.—The 3d Dragoon Guards and all the Bengal Cavalry have not yet arrived; expected shortly.

W. E. MACLEOD, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Head Quarters.

NOTE.—In explanation of the column "Public Followers," "Public Animals," in the Distribution State.

Departments.	Europeans and Natives.
Land Transport - - -	8,000
Commissariat - - -	1,900
Engineer Park - - -	114
Railway - - -	180
Army Works - - -	750
	<u>10,944</u>

The above figures do not include the tent pitchers, nor the whole of the sick carriage (dooley bearers), nor the public and private followers ordered back to Bombay, and now waiting embarkation.

The followers actually employed by the troops, grass cutters excepting, are very small in number.

M. F. DILLON, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Secretary.

No. 30.

Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., commanding the Forces in Abyssinia, to the Secretary of State for India, War Office (received 10th March).

No. 450.

Quartermaster-General's Office,
Head Quarters, Camp, Addigerat,
16th February 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a return of the troops (including Natives) engaged in the Abyssinian expedition, completed up to and for the 1st instant.

The distribution map was forwarded on the 4th instant from Senafé.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commanding the Forces in Abyssinia.

Enclosures in No. 30.

GENERAL MONTHLY RETURN of Officers, Sergeants, Trumpeters, Drummers, Farriers, and Rank and File of the several Corps serving in the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force under the command of Lieut.-General Sir Robert Napier, G.C.S.I., K.C.B.

1st February 1868.

Corps and Head Quarters.	Quarters of Troops or Companies.	How accommodated.*	Number of Troops or Companies at each Quarter.	At Regimental Head Quarters, or on detached Duty at the Station.				Native Commissioned Officers.	Effective Strength, exclusive of those sent or left at Home.									
				Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.		Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants and Havildars.	Trumpeters or Drummers.	Farriers.	Rank and File.			Total Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Horses, including Officers' Charges.	
													Fit for Duty.	Sick in Hospital.	On Command.			
3d Light Cavalry -	Senafé -	-	T. 6	2	2	1	4	16	2	35	5	—	285	19	81	427	302	
3d Sind Horse -	Goonagoona -	-	T. 6	1	3	3	2	19	—	39	5	—	213	—	258	515	454	
Artillery.																		
G/14, R.A. -	Koomaylee -	-	T. 1	—	2	4	1	—	1	5	1	1	83	1	57	149	124	
A/21, R.A. -	Senafé -	-	T. 1	—	2	4	1	—	3	6	2	—	79	2	—	92	11	
B/21, R.A. -	Zoola -	-	T. 1	—	1	5	1	—	3	6	2	—	70	7	—	88	10	
1st Company Native Artillery.	Senafé -	-	T. 1	—	1	2	1	3	1	6	3	—	66	6	4	86	2	
Engineers.																		
10th Company R.E. -	Senafé -	-	T. 1	1	—	2	—	—	—	8	—	—	26	1	48	83	—	
Bombay Sappers -	Senafé Pass -	-	T. 4	—	2	4	1	8	2	26	7	—	372	23	16	446	5	
Madras Sappers -	Zoola -	-	T. 3	1	2	8	2	6	—	20	4	—	212	10	126	372	8	
Infantry.																		
4th K. O. Regiment -	Zoola -	-	T. 10	2	10	15	5	—	7	35	19	—	576	2	83	722	—	
33d Foot -	Senafé -	-	T. 10	2	6	16	5	—	—	24	33	—	427	9	324	817	—	
3d Regiment, N. I. -	Zoola -	-	T. 8	2	1	4	4	15	—	37	16	—	554	17	55	679	11	
10th N. I., Head Quar- ters.	Focado -	-	T. 4	2	—	1	4	8	—	23	12	—	309	24	9	377	7	
10th N. I., Left Wing -	Senafé -	-	T. 4	1	1	1	—	7	—	16	4	—	288	—	—	308	3	
21st " Detachment	Undul -	-	T. 1	—	—	1	—	1	—	5	2	—	67	9	4	87	—	
21st Punjab Infantry -	Zoola -	-	T. 8	2	2	1	2	15	—	40	14	1	606	50	23	734	8	
23d Punjab Pioneers -	Senafé Pass -	-	T. 8	1	2	3	4	16	—	40	16	—	669	8	—	733	8	
25th Regiment, N. I. -	Koomaylee -	-	T. 8	2	—	3	4	12	—	38	14	—	398	34	196	680	13	
27th Beloochees -	Senafé Pass -	-	T. 8	1	2	3	4	15	—	38	16	—	354	60	323	691	8	
Total -			-	93	20	39	81	45	141	19	447	175	2	5,654	232	1,507	8,086	974

* The letters B., T., B., H., or T., are to be placed against each Station, to denote whether the Troops are in Barracks, Temporary Barracks, Huts, or Tents.

Troops which have arrived in the Command since the 1st October 1867.

Corps.	Officers.	Native Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and men.	Horses.	Soldiers' Wives.	Date.	Date of Arrival, from whence, and in what Ship.
3d Light Cavalry -	9	16	427	460	-	21st October 1867	<i>From Bombay.</i> "Coromandel."
						" "	"Hydree."
						" "	"Star of the North."
						" "	"Queen of Australia."
						" "	"Atmosphere."
3d Sind Horse -	9	19	515	473	-	11th January 1868	<i>From Kurrachee.</i> "Beaumaris Castle."
						" "	"Zoroaster."
						9th January "	"Bernice."
						" "	"Kingston."
						" "	"Mai Blume."
G/14, R.A. -	7	—	149	124	-	11th January "	"Humber."
						10th January "	"Arundel."
						30th December 1867	"Louisa."
A/21 " -	7	—	92	8	-		<i>From Bombay.</i> "Sultan."
B/21 " -	7	—	88	10	-		"Tanjore."
1st Company, Native Artillery.	4	3	86	4	-		"Yorrick."
10th Company, R.E. -	—	—	—	—	-	29th December 1867	"England."
						2d January 1868	"Queen."
Bombay Sappers -	7	8	446	5	-	20th October 1867	"Arabia."
							<i>From England.</i> "Great Victoria."
Madras Sappers -	13	6	372	8	-	4th December "	"Samanoud."
						5th December "	<i>From Bombay.</i> "Bombay Castle."
4th Foot -	32	—	723	—	-	3d December "	"Ottawa."
						" "	<i>From Beypoor.</i> "Star of India."
33d Foot -	27	—	820	—	-	12th December "	<i>From Bombay.</i> "John Bright."
						6th December "	"England."
3d Regiment, N.I. -	11	15	683	11	-	29th December "	"Queen."
						1st January 1868	<i>From Kurrachee.</i> "Salsette."
10th Regiment, N.I. -	10	15	687	10	-		"Indian Chief."
21st Detachment -	1	2	87	1	-		"Madras."
21st Punjab Infantry -	8	15	734	8	-	4th December 1867	<i>From Bombay.</i> "British Monarch."
						" "	"British Princess."
23d Punjab Pioneers -	10	16	733	8	-	" "	"India."
						" "	"Dalhousie."
25th N.I. -	9	12	680	13	-	" "	"Euphrates."
						" "	<i>From Bengal.</i> "Bengal."
27th N.I. -	10	15	691	8	-		"Katherine Apear."
Total -	185	142	8,095	1,151	-		"Alabama."
							"Durham."
							"Malabar."
							"Vernon."
							"Howrah."
							<i>From Bombay.</i> "Mofussilite."
							"Samarchand."
							"Asia."
							"Peckforton Castle."

T. J. HOLLAND, Captain,
in charge Quartermaster-General's Office,
Army Head Quarters.

SUMMARY.

Description of Force.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Native Officers.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters or Drummers.	Farriers.	Rank and file.	Total Non-commissioned Officers and men.	Horses, including Officers' chargers.
Cavalry, Native - -	3	5	4	6	35	76	10	—	856	942	756
Royal Artillery - -	—	5	13	3	—	24	5	1	299	329	145
Native Artillery - -	—	1	2	1	3	7	3	—	76	86	2
Royal Engineers - -	1	—	2	—	—	8	—	—	75	83	—
Sappers and Miners - -	1	4	12	3	14	48	11	—	759	818	13
Infantry - - -	4	16	31	10	—	66	52	—	1,421	1,539	—
Native Infantry - - -	11	8	17	22	89	237	94	1	3,957	4,289	58
Total - - -	20	39	81	45	141	466	175	2	7,443	8,086	974

T. J. HOLLAND, Captain,
in charge Quartermaster-General's Office,
Army Head Quarters.

No. 31.

Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., commanding the Forces in Abyssinia, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India (received 10th March 1868.)

No. 453 of 1868.

Quartermaster-General's Office, Head Quarters,
Addigerat, 16th February 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

Report, dated Addigerat, 28th January 1868.
Ditto, dated Addigerat, 30th January 1868.
Ditto, dated Mai Wuhiz, 2d February 1868.
Ditto, dated Adaga, 4th February 1868.
Ditto, dated Ad Abaga, 4th February 1868.
Ditto, dated Mai Mukdum, 8th February 1868.
Ditto, dated Dolo, 11th February 1868.

I have the honour to forward the accompanying copies of reports (as per margin) from Colonel Phayre, Deputy Quartermaster-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, in charge of the reconnoitring party, on the inland route to Antalo.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commanding the Forces in Abyssinia.

Enclosures in No. 31.

Quartermaster-General's Journal, from 19th to 30th January 1868.

Left Post No. 1 at Mulkutto on the 20th, *en route* to Senafé and the advanced posts between that and Addigerat.

Monday, 27th.—On the 27th instant left Senafe, with supplies for seven days for troops and followers, none for cattle; found a detachment of the Scinde Horse, Senafe to Mai Muzrub, 20 miles. under Captain Dickinson, at Goonagoona, and passed on to Mai Muzrub, where two companies, 33d, and two companies, 10th Native Infantry, were clearing the road, under the orders of Major Pierce, 10th Native Infantry.

Addigerat, 17 miles 1 furlong.
troops named in the margin.*

* Dr. Rohlf, Prussian service.
Lord Adare.
Captain Moore, 3d Light Cavalry.
Lieutenant Jopp, Royal Engineers.
6 Non-commissioned, rank and file,
3d Light Cavalry.
2 rank and file, 3d Scinde Horse.

Tuesday, 28th January.—Marched to Addigerat with the Officers and Found the wing, Scinde Horse, under Major Briggs, halted at Focada, waiting for provisions for the men, and unable to move to Addigerat until they were received from Senafé. Left my reconnoitring escort of a native Officer and 25 men of the same regiment at Focada, in consequence, with orders to join at Addigerat

after receiving six or seven days' rations.

Arrived at 1.30 p.m. Sent men into the village to invite the people to bring in supplies. Purchased 510 lbs. of barley at 24 lb. per dollar, four sheep, ghee, firewood, &c. Wheat very scarce, and not good, offered at 16 lbs. per dollar, but declined.

Captain Moore purchased a few mules for the 3d Light Cavalry.

Sent to ask Aba Gabru Miriam, head of the Roman Catholic Mission near this, to visit me, which he did, and I procured from him men acquainted with the country between this and Antalo, by the King's route, as given by him to M. Munzinger on our last visit to Addigerat, a month since.

Wednesday, January 29th.—Lieutenant Jopp, Royal Engineers, returned to Focada, to give information to the working parties regarding bad parts of the road at Focada and Khursabur, also with reference to the water supply at and near Focada. Captain Moore purchased a few more mules.*

Despatched 14 of my mules to Senafé, with orders to the muleteers to reach it by 7 or 8 p.m., and to bring them back laden with rations by the 31st, so as to enable me to advance the reconnoitring operations towards Antalo.

Also despatched six mules, with Mr. Agow, interpreter, and one of my clerks, to villages a few miles distant, to buy grain and mules, or any supplies they could procure.

They returned in the evening, and reported that the prices asked were so much higher than those at which the same articles had been procured at Addigerat the day before, that they declined to purchase any, but invited the people to bring what they had to camp.

The interpreters report that the people are keeping back their grain in expectation of higher prices on the arrival of a large body of troops.

Selected the site for an encampment and dépôt at this place. Afterwards, accompanied by Lord Adare and Dr. Rohlf, who kindly offered his services as an interpreter in Arabic, surveyed the first half of the route (about six miles) to Mai Wuhiz, on the Antalo road, of which a description will be given separately.

On our return, met traders going to purchase supplies at the market of Atsbe, which will take place on Friday next, 31st instant. Desired them to make known to the people *en route* that, within the next few days, we should require supplies on the direct road to Antalo from Mai Wuhiz.

On our return to camp, the head men of Addigerat paid us a visit, and seemed very anxious as to what they would receive in compensation for the grazing which their lands had afforded us on the occasion of our day's visit a month ago, and on the present and future occasions. I replied that General Merewether would be at Addigerat shortly, and that, if they would make known their demands to him, he would deal with them as arranged at other places on the line of route.

I may here mention that the present supply of grass at Addigerat is scanty. Here are two or three small valleys with a moderate supply in the first two miles on the Antalo road, but none on the Senafé road within six miles.

At five miles from Addigerat, towards Antalo, we found a valley tolerably well supplied, but there were a good many cattle feeding on it.

The grass is very coarse, far inferior to that between Mai Muzrub, Focada, and Kursabur.

At Addigerat.

Thursday, 30th January,—A few supplies of grain, wheat and sheep coming in, which I am purchasing.

Captain Moore returned to his regiment this day, having been unable to purchase the number of mules required.

He left 3,500 dollars in my charge, which I propose to make over to the first Commissariat Officer who may arrive.

Wing Scinde Horse not arrived at 3 p.m. this day.

30th January 1868.

R. PHAYRE, Colonel, Deputy Quartermaster-General,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

Report by the Quartermaster-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, to His Excellency, Sir Robert Napier.

Addigerat, 4.30 a.m., 28th January 1868.

Left Mai Muzrub* at 6 a.m. yesterday, and arrived at Addigerat at 1 p.m. Visited the Scinde

* Major Pierce has cleared a good line, by which Mai Muzrub may be either avoided or utilized as a halting place, as the case may be. Two or three miles of stony ground between Goona-goonna and Mai Muzrub might be cleared in a day by a passing detachment, if preparation be made for it.

Horse camp at Focada, with a view to picking up my escort of 25 Scinde Horse, but found they had no rations for fighting men and followers beyond that day; they were expecting some. I, therefore, took two orderlies and left the remainder of the detachment to follow to Addigerat as soon as rations are received, and I hope that the wing Scinde Horse with my detachment will arrive here to-day.

In order, however, to be independent of the Commissariat Department as far as Antalo, I herewith send 12 of my mules, under a mucedam, direct to the Commissariat Department at Senafé, to be laden with as many rations as they will carry.

They will arrive at Senafé to-night, and if laden at once to-morrow morning early, will reach Mai Muzrub on their return to-morrow 29th, and be with me again on the 30th, and thus I shall be able to move to Mai Wuhiz, the first march on the Antalo road, on the 31st instant.

Each mule carries with him from this, 12 lbs. of barley, purchased yesterday, in order that they may accomplish this march without suffering from want of food.

Between my arrival here, yesterday afternoon, and sunset, I purchased five sheep, some ghee, 550 lbs. of barley, a little wheat, firewood, &c. Captain Moore of the 3d Cavalry, who joined me *en route* with a detachment of six men of his regiment, purchased two or three mules, and has arranged to buy more to-day.

I am sending one of my clerks, and Mr. Agow, the interpreter, to some villages named to me by Aba Gabru Miriam, a Roman Catholic priest, who resides about two miles from this, to purchase wheat, barley, ghee, or any other supplies, and to inform the country people that they will find ready purchasers here for all articles of supply.

Grass is scarce, except within three or four miles of Addigerat. A quantity of firewood has been collected by Aba Gabru Miriam, under M. Munzinger's orders, given by General Merewether when here a month since. Aba Miriam told me, that had he had more money, he could have collected more supplies, but had only 90 dollars.

I have secured from him guides for my onward route survey, and shall commence it to-day. I have also arranged that one of my own establishment, with an Abyssinian, shall always be one march ahead of me, to provide supplies of grain, wood, sheep, &c. for my own detachment, and any others that may follow.

Having no Commissariat Agent with me, I must employ one of my clerks (Mr. Blandford) on this duty, but if a Commissariat Inspector could be given to me, I believe I could employ him very usefully in this way.

I have brought very little money with me, and should His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief see fit to send such a subordinate, he might be supplied with funds and accompany my return mules.

I earnestly hope that these animals may not be detained at Senafé, but be laden with rations, of which a list should be given by Major Thacker, and for which I will fully account.

Lieut. Jopp, R.E., accompanied me to Addigerat, in order to see what is required in the way of clearing between Focada and the foot of the Khursabur Ghât, from which last point to this, a distance of about six miles, nothing is required.

Lieutenant Jopp will return to Focada to-day, but I would respectfully submit to His Excellency, that, if possible, he may accompany me in advance, as there are many Engineer Officers with the Sappers.

He will be found at Focada, if his Excellency should give him orders to join me.

The water supply, both at Focada and the ravine three miles this side of it, requires to be developed and increased by small bunds. Lieutenant Jopp will see to this. Dr. Rohlfs, of the Prussian Service, who is with me, has been very useful as an Arabic interpreter.

Lord Adare, who is also in advance, has offered his services as an interpreter with Mr. Agow, by giving him instructions orally or in writing, and interpreting or translating his reports as the case may be; Dr. Rohlfs also aids me in this way.

With the help of these gentlemen, I need no other interpreter than Mr. Agow, and could leave Mr. Peter Bern here, or wherever His Excellency may require his services.

R. PHAYRE, Colonel, Deputy Quartermaster General,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

ADVANCED RECONNOISSANCE.

Quartermaster-General's Report on the Route to Antalo, by the King's Road, starting from Camp near the fortified Enclosure at Addigerat.

Mai Wuhiz, 2d February 1868.—The road for the first seven miles lies up the gently undulating valley and district of Gunta Afasho, in Agame.

First march, from Addigerat to Mai Wuhiz, 13 miles, 6 furlongs, 209 yards. Mai Wuhiz, by aneroid, about 500 feet higher than Senafé, or 8,000 feet.

Saturday, 1st February 1868.

continuation of the low rocky spurs and broken ground commencing at Camp Addigerat.

There is a little work required at the two watercourses, within a mile of our camp at Addigerat.

Work required by fatigue parties.

12 feet, to render it easy for laden cattle.

At $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, near the small springs of the Mai Afdoor, there is a very rugged rocky ascent for 240 yards, which will have to be made easy for laden cattle, at eight feet wide.

At 6 miles 7 furlongs 153 yards, the descent into the Bait Hairat valley will require to be cleared of low bushes, and, in one or two parts, of loose stones.

The church and grove of Bait Hairat is situated at the foot of the Gargoona spur. The water supply is abundant and good. At present, there is plenty of grass in the valley. The pioneering party should be moved there at once from Addigerat, executing the work above described *en route*.

The reason for this prompt movement of the Pioneers to the front is the rugged character of the next three miles onward from Bait Hairat, in crossing the elevated Gargoona spur and plateau, to the open undulating country in which Mai Wuhiz is situated.

The work required on the first three miles in question is as follows.

First, in selecting and clearing a line of road to the top of the Gargoona spur, a distance of 2 furlongs 144 yards. Second, in selecting a line into and out of the deep and almost impassable ravine of Gargoona; a curve on a higher level than the present track follows would remedy the steepness which now detains laden animals. Thirdly, to clear the road down from the Gargoona plateau to the church of Bet Mariam, situated in a grove of quolquol trees.

From this last point to the site selected for the camp at Mai Wuhiz, a distance of about 3½ miles, very little work is required, except here and there, at broken ground and watercourses.

There is plenty of water at Bait Hairat, also in the Gargoona ravine, and in a little stream midway between the church of Bet Mariam and the camp at Mai Wuhiz.

Mai Wuhiz has been described by the head man, named Fasoo, as a small district. The vicinity is a track of primary sandstone, open, undulating, and barren-looking, except in the lines of drainage, where there are at present green crops of barley and wheat; flat, moderately elevated sandstone plateaus appear, as far as the eye can reach, to the south and south-east.

The rugged ground extending from Bait Hairat, across the Gargoona shoulder and plateau, into this open country, is evidently a favourite haunt of robbers, on the watch for falling baggage animals. Saw several armed men loitering about there, in parties of two and three. Its proximity to the eastern watershed, and the very rugged country to the north-east and east, may account for this.

Unless a good road, some 8 or 10 feet wide, is cleared across this part, our communications with Addigerat cannot, I think, be said to be satisfactory, as regards the easy transport of supplies.

Colonel Phayre, Quartermaster-General, and Establishment.

				Dr. Rohlf.			
Officer	-	-	1	Officer	-	-	1
Europeans	-	-	3	European	-	-	1
Fighting men (Draftmen, Guides, and Lascars)	-	-	17	Private followers	-	-	2
Public followers (Muleteers)	-	-	12	Horses	-	-	1
Private ditto	-	-	8	Mules	-	-	3
Horses	-	-	3	Lord Adare.			
Mules	-	-	23	Officer	-	-	1
Village Guides	-	-	2	European	-	-	1
Interpreter in Arabic and Guide Fabair	-	-	1	Private follower	-	-	1
				Horses	-	-	2
				Mule	-	-	1

With seven days' full rations.

Detachment, 3d Regiment, Scinde Horse.

Fighting men	-	-	25	Mule	-	-	1
Public followers	-	-	15	Tattoos	-	-	16
Horses	-	-	25	Bullock	-	-	1

Arrangements for seven days' rations have been made.

A sketch of the route from Addigerat to Mai Wuhiz accompanies this.

A sketch of the site selected for our camp at Mai Wuhiz is under preparation to-day, and will be forwarded when possible.

The immediate advance of the wing of the Scinde Horse in support of this reconnoissance, as ordered by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, is most desirable. They would, I believe, obtain full rations of grain here, as I have only purchased the quantity I require, and desired the people to keep the remainder for them.

Thus supported, I could advance to Antalo, communicating daily with the Commanding Officer of the regiment, who could take notes of what he requires, and pass on the report to His Excellency.

Monday, 3d February.—On leaving the encamping ground at Mai Wuhiz, the road falls by a

Second day's march from Mai Wuhiz to Adaga, 15 miles, 1 furlong, 60 yards.
Adaga is about 350 feet lower than Mai Wuhiz.

At this opening the district of Haramat is entered, and its principal amba, Dassien, is seen at the westward range that in this part separates the eastern watershed from the interior of the country.

It forms the most conspicuous object in this day's march. Viewed from the eastward route, at four or five miles distance, its northern, eastern, and southern faces bear the appearance of the inaccessibility that has been attributed to it.

It is not commanded, though the continuation of the range on the north side, called Amba Dambabool, from which it appears to be detached, would afford the means of attack.

My informant, a guide from the village of Zabun Sas, stated that it is not inhabited, except during the rains or in time of war, when it is used as a depôt for property. It is said to have water on it.

A fair supply of barley, sheep, and cattle appears to be procurable at Mai Wuhiz. Ponies were offered for sale.

I purchased enough food for the cattle of my party, as per margin, for two days. Grass and water sufficient; firewood very bad, dear, and scarce. Water cresses in or near valleys.

Jasoo, the head man, seems desirous of making the most of our visit, by the rates asked.

Having been informed that, to-morrow, 3d February, there will be a market at Gurmuddo, said to be close to the next halting place of Ad Abaga, 15 miles distant, I purpose sending on an interpreter and clerk to the latter place this evening, and following up myself with the detachment to-morrow morning, surveying as I proceed.

bad rocky descent for about half a mile into the bed of the stream, whence it rises 2 furlongs by a similar path to a narrow cleft in the low sandstone range to the south called Agoolee.

At Agoolee two paths branch off, one to the south towards Abaga, the other in a more westerly direction to Houzen. It may be useful to mention here that the route generally from Mai Wuhiz to Abaga is crossed by so many paths that, until it is well defined by clearing or use, no troops or baggage should attempt to proceed along it without village guides.

Onward from Agoolee the line is easy and good, passing along the western base of a low sandstone range for $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, to the little pass of Debreë Mumbar, the head of which is about 150 feet higher than Mai Wuhiz. The road down this pass to the Mai Gurzo ravine at its foot, a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs, with a fall of about 250 feet, is most rugged and steep; a pathway should be cleared down it as soon as possible.

At three quarters of a mile beyond the ravine of Mai Gurzo just referred to, there is a second one of the same name, equally rugged and precipitous, the road across which requires to be made.

There being a quantity of excellent water in this ravine, and an extensive encamping ground on its southern bank, at the commencement of the fine plain of Singata, the working parties employed in clearing the Debreë Mumbar pass and the passage of the ravines under reference should encamp here for the purpose.

Plain of Singalt.

Forage.

Road from the Debreë Mumbar pass to Abaga.

There is an abundance of excellent forage throughout the whole route from Debreë Mumbar to Abaga. The first part of the road lies along the base of the Debreë Mumbar range; thence across the Senatu plain for half a mile, and from that by the village of Ersemma to Gurmuddo is three miles of good road. There is plenty of water and grass at Gurmuddo.

From Gurmuddo to Abaga, about six miles, the country is very stiff, being a continuous succession of rises and falls across abruptly undulating country. A cleared path is very desirable in this part, if there be time to arrange it so; but the most important obstacles on the whole line are the Debreë Mumbar pass and the two ravines of Mai Gurzo beneath it.

Stiff undulating country.

Arrived at Abaga soon after 2 p.m., and found a small war going on between Prince Kassa's Governor of this district, Gras-Matchleel Desta and Tittoraree Tessumme, on the one side, and a rebel and bandit named Uttosen on the other. The cause was the collection of revenue, Uttosen having collected all he could on his own account, and retired with it to an entrenched position in the Debreë Mumbar range, a mile or two distant. As my clerk and the interpreter whom I had sent on yesterday evening, the 2d instant, to buy barley for our cattle had not succeeded in purchasing any, I sent a polite message to the authorities above-named, and begged their assistance. At about 5 p.m., Arata, the commander of Prince Kassa's troops here, numbering about 100, came down, and expressed his regret at not having been able to provide for us; and on the part of the two Governors he stated that, being actually in action at that moment with Uttosen, they could not come. (We had heard about one musket shot per hour since our arrival, which was thus accounted for.) I replied that we were travellers through their country and friends of their Chief, and that it would be equally pleasing to our Chief Sir Robert Napier and to their own Chief, Prince Kassa, if they did their best to help us in the matter of grain, cattle, sheep, and firewood, and that if they did exert themselves I should make a report with a view to their being rewarded.

Arata gave full consent, seemed desirous of doing his best, and left us for the night.

Tuesday, 4th February.—Halt here to-day, in the hope of the rations which I had lent to the Commissariat Department at Addigerat for the wing, Scinde Horse, being sent to me as promised. Without these my advance towards Antalo would, I fear, be checked.

At Abaga. The next march will be to Dongollo, about 12 miles.

Further report to-morrow.

Tuesday, 4th February.—The authorities in the wild border districts of Haramat were evidently taken by surprise by our arrival yesterday, and the people of the country equally so, both were at first shy, and disinclined to help us in any way. This morning early, however, it was announced to me that the two Governors Gras-Matchel Desta and Tittoraree Tessueme, were on their way down the hill, with a large force following (about 500 people), to pay us a visit.

Halted at Ad Abaga.

After the usual compliments, I repeated much of what had been said to Arata the day previously, informed them that their Chief Dedjismudj Kassa had arranged to meet the English Commander-in-Chief, Sir Robert Napier, at Addigerat in a day or two, and that, as a large force would in a very few days be passing through Haramat, *en route* to Antalo, I trusted they would exert themselves to bring for sale barley, wheat, firewood, sheep, and cattle. The principal Governor said that before his arrival here to collect the revenue (as I understood him), a rebel had seized most of it, but that he would do his best, and he then presented me with a small quantity of barley. I told him that I accepted it in the name of our Chief and the English Government, and in return presented each Governor with 10 dollars, explaining that, as we were travelling with very little baggage, I had not any of the usual presents with me to offer him in return for his civility.

A military Officer serving under the Governor then produced more grain as a present, in return for which I gave him five dollars, and explained that we were prepared to purchase grain for our cattle to any amount, and that if they had wheat that also would be purchased.

This exchange of presents had the desired effect of doing away with all reserve and shyness on the part of the Governors and their followers, and during the day we purchased as much barley, goats, &c., as we required for our own use, and begged of them to reserve the remainder for those following us.

There are no sheep here; I found plenty of goats.

This they promised to do, and having obtained two intelligent guides from the Governor, who were to give us the names of places *en route*, and after our guns, rifles, pistols, &c., including the Scinde Horse carbines, had been inspected and excited a good deal of admiration, we parted mutual friends.

They had excellent gunpowder, manufactured by themselves, and they produced a sample of saltpetre obtained, they said, close by. Their bullets were conical shaped stones.

The head man of this village was also very attentive. I found it best, in dealing with the villagers, not to allude to any of the authorities of the country, but to deal directly with themselves for their goods. The head man of Mai Wuhiz, on my referring to his extortionate demands, and hinting that I would make them known at Adowa, flew into a great rage and went home. We procured then, however, all that we wanted from the people themselves, and left grain unpurchased because we could not carry it.

I, however, have the impression that the present supply of grain will be soon exhausted. In future years, now that its value is known, the people will probably be stimulated to exert themselves more in raising crops.

Third days' march.

From Ad Abaga to plain beyond Dongolo, 10 miles, 1 furlong, 40 yards.

Camp on the river Gunfit is 1,134 feet below Ad Abaga, or about 6,486 above the level of the sea.

First $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Ad Abaga, *en route* to Dongolo.

Fall of the country to the southward.

From a point $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Ad Abaga to Niggash grove, Niggash pass. This grove is the burial place of a Mahomedan saint, and is visited by Mussulmans from all parts of the country.

The Niggash pass.

485 feet, in five furlongs of distance.

Present state of the road.

mules at present.

Onward from the foot of the pass to Mai Al-Habbalo, a distance of one mile one furlong, the road is good, through a rich well cultivated valley. There is abundance of grass and water, and some firewood at Habbalo.

The Pioneer detachment would also find grass, water, and firewood at Niggash grove, the head of this pass.

Thirdly, from the top of a slight rise south of Al-Habbalo, and about a furlong from it, another very rugged, but not steep, descent of one and a half mile long, has to be passed, into the extensive valley and plain of the River Gunfit, at the eastern base of Mount Dagodit, a fine mass of red sandstone.

Plain in the valley of the Gunfit River.

Proposed encamping ground here, on account of water, grass, and firewood.

There is abundance of pure water in the Gunfit, but I regret to say that, since leaving Al-Habbalo forage is scanty, and there is little or none beyond the gorge referred to below.

Dongolo gorge.

to the fine open plain of Turrur, beyond.

The first fall below the eastern watershed was from the Gargoona spur, the next at Debree Dumbur.

The more distant western range communicated with the Amba Dassien hills, and was continued, after a break of four or five miles, from Amba Gurrantu, S.E., to Amba Kokar and Mount Dagodit Dongolo.

Dongolo village, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Ad Abaga.

on a high spur of the western range, immediately above it, and is therefore only about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Ad Abaga, instead of 12 as estimated from native accounts.

The gorge is about half a mile long, from head to foot, and it will be observed from the accompanying sketch plan that, owing to the rugged rocky character of the ground on both sides of it, the present line of route crosses the Gunfit twice in that distance.

A little gunpowder would be required to open a road by the dotted line, which is advisable, as, in the event of heavy rain, this river would be impassable, except by a bridge or pontoons.

I encamped on the fine open plain of Turrur, on the left bank of the Gunfit, south of the gorge, it being well advanced on the road to Antalo, and clear of the hills and rough ground above described, but on examination I

found that, though covered with traces of recent cultivation, it has no grass close at hand, excepting a very little in the dry bed of the Gunfit.

Wednesday, 5th February.—The route for the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Ad Abaga crosses stiff undulating country, on the same general level as the preceding day's march. It is covered in parts with low scrub jungle. Grass is abundant in all the valleys. The only work required in this distance is to clear away loose stones, and cut easy slopes into and out of water-courses, some of which have steep broken banks.

Onward to Dongolo, a distance of nearly seven miles, the country assumes a wilder character, and falls rapidly to the fine open plain of the Turrur, on the River Gunfit.

The first fall from the point referred to is one of about 120 feet, by a gradual, but rugged, descent of five furlongs to the Niggash grove, at the head of the pass of that name. This requires to be cleared and levelled.

Secondly, from Niggash grove to the bed of the water-course, at the foot of the pass is an abrupt fall of about

The path is narrow, extremely rocky, and in parts obstructed by thorny jungle. It is barely passable for laden

The gorge is formed by the convergence, at this point, of the eastern and western ranges, which bound the line of route at irregular distances since leaving Mai Wuhiz.

The village of Dongolo is situated

I did not find any water in the latter after leaving the gorge, and, under the circumstances, I would respectfully submit, for His Excellency's consideration, that the plain above referred to, as lying between the north end of the gorge and the descent from Al-Habbalo, is better adapted for encampment than the Turrur plain under notice. The former would place us within as easy reach of forage, firewood, and water as is possible, whereas the latter places us at a distance from the two first articles of supply.

I found camels grazing on the edge of the Turrur plain, which are employed in the salt traffic between Atsbi and Antalo. From the appearance of the country southwards, I can easily credit the report of the natives, that it is plain the whole way from this to Antalo; that, however, which has to be crossed between this and Atsbi is, to all appearance, as rugged as any we have traversed since leaving Senafé.

From what I could learn from the guides, Atsbi is not more than 10 miles from Dongolo.

Thursday, 6th February.—At Dongolo I procured, soon after arrival yesterday, about 50 lbs. of wheat, which I sent into the village to be ground, though the price asked for grinding was one-fourth the value of the wheat.

Halted at Dongolo.

There appear to be plenty of goats and cattle, but no sheep. Boosah was offered for sale at a dear rate. There must be plenty of this, judging from the amount of cultivated ground in the vicinity.

The people come freely into camp, but they are very exorbitant in their demands, still the rates paid are not higher than at Senafé, and in some instances less.

Having secured three days' grain for the detachment, including the supply for to-morrow, I have ceased purchasing, and told the villagers to reserve the rest for succeeding detachments.

Surveyed the plains on each side of the gorge to-day, and found that the gorge may be turned to the eastward by a good road, which would answer temporary purposes. That by the gorge is the straightest line, and in the event of a road being made, it is the best, I think. The plan will be forwarded in due time.

Plan of encamping ground at Dongolo.

I purpose marching to Agoola to-morrow, 7th, and staying there the 8th instant.

The sky is overcast with clouds to-day, and there is every appearance of rain. The weather, too, is much warmer than we have had it on the highlands of Senafé.

Addigerat and Mai Wuhiz, thermometer 80°, at one p.m., in the shade.

4th day's march. From camp on the left bank of the Gunfit, south of the Tsurra gorge.

Dongolo to Agoola eight miles instead of 14, as estimated from the Native report.

Camp at Agoola is about 130 feet below camp on the Gunfit at Dongolo, or 6,356 feet above the level of the sea.

There is abundance of forage around this spot, and onward nearly the whole way to Agoola.

Forage *en route*.

Water *en route*.

Course of the Gunfit towards the Taccanze.

Referring to the remark in my last report, proposing to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the encamping ground at Dongolo should be in the plain to the north of Tsurra gorge, instead of in the Tsurra plain to the south of it, owing to the want of forage and water in the latter for some distance. I now find that my proposal is the more advisable, because the distance from a camp near Dongolo, south of the gorge would only be eight miles from Agoola, instead of 14 as estimated in the native route in my possession, and from a camp north of the gorge as proposed to Agoola would be 9½ to 10 miles. Thus, the length of the more difficult march from Ad Abaga to Dongolo would be reduced.

Rich black soil, shales, conglomerate, and in parts, concretionary limestone on the ranges. The high distant hills are still sandstone.

Soil *en route*.

Work required.

The Zuban Sirrow spur.

Mai Guratcha.

Three channels of the Mai Tsuddo.

The first two miles level and good across the plain of Tsurra.

The next three miles to a narrow opening in the Zuban Sirrow spur, which is about 100 feet above the valley of the Gunfit, cross, firstly, the narrow valley of the Mai Guratcha, where there is a little clearing required and secondly, three channels of the Mai Tsuddo, where slight clearing is also required.

All of these streams are tributaries of the Gunfit, but not flowing at present.

The view back to the northward from many points of this three miles is very fine, and affords the means of verifying the position of the several hills passed *en route* or within sight of it.

Agoola, that to the south and south-west to Enderta.

From this point, across the elevated jungle plateau of Zurban. Sirrow to the top of the Agoola pass is a distance of nearly 7 furlongs; then down the pass to the Agoola valley, nearly 1½ miles; and thence across to the left bank of the Agoola river; a pathway of six or eight feet wide should be cleared of all stones and jungle, it being important that the road surface in this part should be as smooth and

Note.—There is a low point in the eastern watershed, at the head of the Agoola valley, which promises an easy road into the lowlands from the head of the Agoola valley, estimated to be about four or five miles distant as the crow flies. The Natives here say that it is only three days' journey for laden camels from this to the salt plain below. The Agoola valley offers a better line to the coast than that from Dongolo, through Atsbi Durra, so far as I could judge from a bird's eye view of the country in both cases.

clearly defined as possible, owing to the number of cross roads, as well as to the questionable

character of some of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, who are not Abyssinians, but were described to me as a collection of criminal refugees from the Shoho, and other lowland tribes, and are now engaged in the salt trade between the coast at Edd Amphila, &c., and in the interior through Agoola to Hoozan, a place of importance in these districts.

The route from Dongola to Agoola, as a whole, is good, and might easily be cleared for cart traffic. During heavy rain, the black soil might make it difficult for a time in certain parts, but generally the rock is near the surface.

The Agoola stream and valley are both very fine, yet, with the advantages of a rich black soil and an abundant water supply, the Mussulman population referred to seem to have neglected cultivation almost entirely. A bigoted fanatical spirit seems also to pervade these intruders into this part of the table land, for on my arrival in camp at Agoola I was told that I could get no barley for my cattle, because there was none, or sheep, bullocks, &c. for my men, simply because they would not sell herds and flocks in their possession.

They even refused a guide to accompany my surveyors for a mile or two up and down stream from my camp, until an Arab from Mussowa whom I had with me, induced one of them, as a favour, to go with me. Moreover, the Abyssinian interpreter, Mr. Agow, whom I had sent on from Dongolo the previous evening to collect supplies for my detachment on arrival, reported to me that he had overheard some of the loiterers around his tent discussing the probability of an attempt to plunder our small party being successful.

Later in the afternoon, I procured about 150 lbs. of barley brought from a distance, but nothing else. I therefore, propose to move towards Dolo, the next stage named in the native account in my possession, as 19 miles distant, with no water *en route*, except a little at Mai Mukdun, 12 miles from Agoola.

Received intelligence this evening, that a reinforcement of 150 sabres, under Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, 3d Light Cavalry, has arrived at Dongolo, the last stage, eight miles distant, and will join me to-morrow. I consequently arranged with Colonel Loch to pass Agoola and come to Mai Mukdun, where I would await his arrival.

Marched with the detachment at 6 a.m.

Saturday, 8th February.—As before mentioned, the distance from Agoola to Mai Mukdun was, according to Native accounts, 12 miles, and an insufficiency of water at the latter place was reported. We were also led to look for a plain road the whole way from Dongolo to Antalo.

This march has proved to be only eight miles instead of 12, but so far from being across a plain, the ascents amount in the aggregate to upwards of 1,100 feet, and the descents of 700; some of them very steep and rugged, as will be described.

On leaving the Agoola river the road approaches an offshoot of the eastern watershed named Sullat pass, concretionary limestone, &c. 113 feet; roadway good, but covered with loose stones; after this a rise of 577 feet in little more than a mile distance, leads to the top of the pass. Included in this mile, are two steep rugged ascents of between 300 and 400 yards each. These will require to be made or avoided, as, in their present state, they are nearly impassable for miles, owing to the sharp, angular, firmly imbedded blocks of rock and loose stones, with which they are covered. The intermediate spaces are easy black soil slopes, cultivated ground.

Fall into the Koheim Valley. From the top of Sullat, the road falls into the Koheim valley, upwards of 200 feet in half a mile, similarly rugged path to that just described.

Easy rise, 2 miles, 1 furlong. Easy undulating ground is then traversed for 2 miles, 1 furlong. Rise, 200 feet. Nothing required here.

From the Koheim valley to the top of the Untuffa spur, is a steep rugged rise of 180 feet in three furlongs. Road partly choked by low jungle, and over sharp angular limestone rocks as before.

Rise from the Koheim valley to the top of Untuffa spur. The first fall from Untuffa towards Mai Mukdun is 260 feet in three quarters of a mile, partly bad as before, partly good.

The second fall to the upper springs of Mai Mukdun is about 290 feet in nearly a mile and a quarter. Road better than before, requiring only a little clearing in one or two places.

The country throughout is sterile, looking like the Deccan in the hot season. From the Koheim valley onwards, however, a good deal of the land is roughly ploughed. The supply of forage is very scanty *en route*, as also at Mai Mukdun itself.

This is attributable to the large number of cattle in the vicinity. The water supply of Mai Mukdun is from springs in an open valley of black soil.

Hundreds of cattle are watered here, and the sources of the water, as well as the small stream by

Since this was written, I have had the upper springs cleaned, and find that a strong jet of water wells up vertically from the ground.

There are other springs lower down. At half a mile or so lower down stream, there is a strong flow of water over a precipice, the discharge of which shall be gauged to-day (9th instant), but I am now satisfied that the supply is amply adequate for our purposes as a halting place for a day *en route* to Antalo.

6 a.m., 9th February.

R. P.

and about 2,000 animals. I will, however, afford full information on these points in the sketch plan which I purpose making of this encamping ground.

There appear to be plenty of cattle here and some grain. The latter is being brought in in small quantities. Purchased a good bullock to slaughter for six dollars, giving back the skin. The inhabitants are Abyssinian, not Shohos as at Agoola, and appear to be willing to give what they can in the way of supplies.

To-morrow's report will contain fuller particulars on these points. A heavy thunder shower at three p.m. this day (8th instant). With continued rain this black country would, it is feared, become heavy to march over. The present light rains do not affect it in this respect.

I would respectfully suggest, that the bad parts of the route above described be cleared, as soon as possible, by additional working parties being employed, if necessary, as a large number of mules would take a long time to file through them in their present state. A great number would probably fall, as some belonging to this detachment did, and thereby delayed the arrival of the rest.

Agoola to Mukdun, eight miles.

Apart from the present line, I am of opinion that a good cart road could be easily cleared across the tract of country under report, by observing the common rules of road making.

Sunday, 9th February.—Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, 3d Light Cavalry, with the detachment as per margin, joined this afternoon.

Halted at Mai Mukdun.

Field Detachment.

3d Light Cavalry—

- 1 European Officer, Lt.-Col. Loch.
- 4 Native Officers.
- 9 Non-commissioned Officers.
- 62 Non-commissioned rank and file.
- 90 public followers.
- 7 private "
- 37 mules.
- 2 bullocks.
- 80 regimental horses.

Scinde Horse—

- 1 European Officer, Lieut. M'Nair.
- 4 Native Officers.
- 3 Non-commissioned Officers.

Scinde Horse—cont.—

- 44 rank and file.
- 45 public followers.
- 1 private
- 48 mules.
- 4 bullocks.
- 52 regimental horses.

Commissariat Department—

- 1 Officer, Lieutenant Shewell
- 2 Inspectors.
- 2 public followers.
- 3 private "
- 41 muleteers, Transport Corps
- 108 mules, ditto.

is also very scanty and distant from camp.

The water supply would be sufficient for the force specified in my last report for one day, if proper arrangements for bunding the outflow down the Mai Mukdun valley for about half a mile are made.

All details connected with this will be seen in the accompanying plan, which will be forwarded through Major Pierce, commanding the Pioneer force, together with this report, for his information and guidance. Major Pierce will also enclose with it, for His Excellency's information, a brief memorandum of the progress made and the work done by his detachment since coming under my orders at or near Agoola yesterday.

Monday, 10th February.—Mai Mukdun not being a suitable halting place for more than one day, for the reasons stated, I marched this morning with the whole Cavalry detachment to Dolo.

Sixth day's march. From Mai Mukdun to Dolo, 6 miles, 6 furlongs, 156 yards.

Before leaving, wrote to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief a reply to his note of the 6th instant; forwarded it through Major Pierce for perusal, and gave him orders relative to the clearance of bad parts of the road between Agoola and Mai Mukdun.

Sent back to him Mr. Peter Bern, the interpreter who had come on with Lieutenant-Colonel Loch.

Description of the route from Mai Mukdun to Dolo River.

To the summit of Howatzo spur, 1 mile, 5 furlongs, 22 yards.

The ascent of the Howatzo spur is commenced at the upper spring of the Mai Mukdun. The height attained to the Mahomedan tomb at the top is about 572 feet, in a distance of 1 mile, 5 furlongs, 22 yards.

Parts of this are very steep, and rugged from the large angular slabs of limestone with which they are covered. In other places loose rolling stones only have to be removed to render the road easy for laden mules.

Slippery sheet rock should always be avoided, where possible, by a slight detour, or if that is not possible, be covered with a coating of gravel.

This applies to many parts of the present march.

From the summit of Howatzo, a fine view is obtained southward to Amba Antalo (which, in a direct line, appears to be from 14 to 16 miles distant), and westward and northward to the country traversed since leaving Addigerat and that below the western watershed.

The hills around are bare and sterile looking, with long easy slopes running from east to west. Grass very scanty, and little or no fuel.

Howatzo forms the line of boundary between Hamarat and Enderä in this part.

The descent from it to the black soil plain of Harena is not very steep, but it is very rugged, from the ledges of slippery limestone rock that it traverses, as also the loose stones with which it is strewed for the distance stated. Many mules and one or two horses fell from this cause

during the march under report.

It will be the duty of the Pioneer force to turn or render more passable the places noted.

Across the plain of Harena to the foot of Abba Goonga spur, 1 mile, 5 furlongs. 130 yards.

Rise to top of Abaga Goonga, 104 feet. Distance, 2 furlongs, 20 yards.

From summit of Abba Goonga to foot of steeps, descent 1 mile, 117 yards; 445 feet fall.

narrow path not only very difficult but dangerous.

Were there time to arrange it so, it would be advisable to select a new line altogether down this steep rugged hill. I propose examining it to-day or to-morrow with that object.

Southern foot of Abba Goonga to right bank of river, 1 mile, 3 furlongs, 163 yards; up to camp, 2 furlongs, 76 yards.

There is a fine open encamping ground at Dolo, about 50 feet above the level of the river on its

Encamping ground, &c., at Dolo.

collected some grain, wheat, and barley, in compliance with the message that I had sent to them on the previous day. I presented them with five dollars, in His Excellency's name, and assured them that, if they would collect grain of all kinds, firewood, &c., for the Commissariat, that their civility in doing so would be rewarded. They presented to me some very good Abyssinian (wheaten) bread, and Lieutenant Shewell will ascertain how it is made, and whether we could not purchase some regularly.

They informed me that Antalo is nearly 16 miles from this, and, if their account be nearly right (as I believe it to be), the correct distance would be as follows.

From Addigerat to,—

	Miles.	Frs.	Yards.	
1. Mai Wuhiz - - -	13	6	155	
2. Ad Abaga - - -	15	1	106	
3. Dongolo camp, north of gorge -	8	5	42	
	37	5	123	(nearly half way).
4. Agoola river - - -	9	4	10	
5. Mai Mukdun - - -	7	7	140	
6. Dolo river - - -	6	6	156	
7. Erkhullet - - -	8	0	0	(computed).
8. Antalo - - -	8	0	0	"
	77	7	169	

Instead of 96 miles, as computed from the native account.

Dongolo being nearly half way, and well supplied with forage, water, grain, a moderate stock of firewood, &c., is the best place for a Cavalry detachment, Commissariat depôt, &c., on the line of communication.

Dongolo, as a half-way depôt between Addigerat and Antalo.

A plan of the ground selected for the camp is enclosed.

At Agoola and Mai Mukdun, a few supplies of grain, &c., may be obtained; but, being near the watershed, and partly inhabited by Tettals and other lowland tribes, the supply will not, I think, be regular, except with the assistance of the Tigré Chief. Attempts at robbery may be expected at them.

At Dolo, where my camp now is, there appears to be a good supply of everything except

There is good flowing water further down the valley, in the bed of the Dolo. The part referred to as not good is where the road crosses the river.

be shown in the plan of camp at Dolo, under preparation.

The people are obliging, and most ready to assist to the extent of their power.

I purpose staying here for a day or two, to allow the Pioneer detachment and General Colling's column to close up between a march or so of me.

Further report will be made to-morrow.

R. PHAYRE, Colonel,
Deputy Quartermaster-General.

Dolo, 11th February 1868.

No. 32.

Memorandum for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India (received 14th March 1868).

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Camp Attigerat, 12th February 1868.

The health of the troops is excellent.

The pioneer force, consisting of 75 sabres Scinde Horse, 75 sabres 3d Light Cavalry, two companies 10th Native Infantry, one company 23d Pioneers, and one company Bombay Sappers, is at Dolo, within three easy marches of Antalo.

Yesterday Brigadier Collings, with the head quarter wing of the 33d Regiment, Penn's steel mountain battery, the head quarters and 90 sabres Scinde Horse, left Attigerat with one month's supplies for his force for Antalo. He may be expected to occupy that place with the troops he took hence and the Pioneer force about the 19th or 20th.

The Commander-in-Chief will leave this place on the 17th with a wing of the 4th King's Own Regiment, the 2d Belooch Battalion, and a considerable portion of the 3d Light Cavalry. He is to have an interview with Kussa, prince of Tigré, two marches out, and will then push forward to Antalo.

The post of Attigerat will be securely held after the advance of the Commander-in-Chief.

Telegraphic communication between Zoulla and England is almost a necessity. The Commander-in-Chief has telegraphed to request the Secretary of State for India to sanction the connexion of Jubal and Zoulla by a submarine line.

Carriage is still very deficient, and all depends upon transport. The transport animals from Bombay come in very slowly. Some 2,000 camels are being obtained from Berbera, but many more animals, both for pack and draught, are urgently required.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 33.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Under Secretary of State for India (received 14th March 1868).

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,
Camp Attigerat, 11th February 1868.

Sir,

In reply to your letter, No. 202, of the 10th ultimo, on the subject of one of the large steam transports engaged for the Abyssinian expedition being temporarily appropriated for the overland relief of troops, I have the honour to acquaint you that, having referred the question to Zoulla for the consideration of Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, Commodore Heath, C.B., and Captain Tryon, the Director of Transports, with instructions to communicate their opinion to you by telegraph, these Officers informed me that it would be impossible to divert a large steamer for any time from the purposes of the Abyssinian expedition, and their opinion was forwarded to you by telegraph. A communication subsequent to the date of the telegram forwarded by Sir Charles Staveley has acquainted me more fully that no large steamer can be spared at present for any duty not connected with the Abyssinian expedition.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 34.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 20th March 1868).

No. 11.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
Right Honourable Sir, Camp Adabaga, 21st February 1868.

I have the honour, in continuation of Despatch, dated Addigerat, the 15th instant, to report for your information, that I marched from that place on the 18th idem, and arrived here on the day following.

2. The temporary check which has occurred in the forwarding of supplies to the front, owing to our deficient means of transport, has, for the time being, prevented any real advance being made by the army beyond Antalo. This has given me the opportunity of remaining in this neighbourhood, for the purpose of giving to Prince Kassa the interview he desires, longer than might otherwise have been expedient.

3. Shortly after our camp had been pitched here, a messenger from the above Prince arrived, with a letter, of which a translation is appended (Appendix A). Translation of my reply is also appended (marked B).

4. The belief was that Prince Kassa was to arrive at Hawazein, the capital of the Province of Haramat, this evening. Hawazein is distant about 12 miles in a westerly direction from our present encampment, and is the seat of the Governor of the Province, Dajazmaj Girra Inkaeel, who is said to be one of the most influential of Prince Kassa's advisers.

5. It seemed desirable to open communications with the above Chief at once, to ascertain whether Prince Kassa was really about to proceed in this direction, and in order that, in that case, a suitable site for our meeting might be selected, this encampment not being adapted for the effective parade of the troops.

6. Yesterday morning, accordingly, Major Grant, C.B., and Captain Speedy, accompanied by Mr. Mircha Worke, proceeded to Hawazein. They returned to camp this morning, and the result of their mission is shown in the attached report by Major Grant (Appendix C). From the information brought to me by Major Grant, it appeared uncertain whether Prince Kassa would be able to leave the neighbourhood of his capital during the limited time I shall now be in his dominions. Appreciating the difficulties which may be supposed to prevent his doing so, and yet anxious that the interview, which he seems so much to desire, should take place, I this afternoon dispatched a messenger to Zawgeh, about thirty miles distant, where the Prince now is, with a letter of which a copy is herewith submitted (marked D). The advantages we ourselves may expect to derive from my having a personal interview with Prince Kassa, have been referred to in previous communications in the Military Department, and on that point I continue of the same mind still. I shall await during to-morrow an answer to my letter of to-day, holding myself in readiness to meet the Prince at the spot indicated, viz., Mai Deeah, about five miles distant, should he make his appearance there. If otherwise, then I propose at once moving on towards Antalo.

7. Copies of letters which were received yesterday from Magdala, with a précis of their contents suited for general publicity; are appended (marked E). The letters do not throw much new light on the aspect of affairs in the interior.

8. A report received from Captain Moore, of his operations among the Shoho tribes of the pass is appended (marked F). I think all has now been done, that the circumstances of the case admitted of, towards making available the products of those regions. When the scantiness of such products themselves is considered, as also, the sparseness and the migratory habits of the people, I regard the actual results attained, as not only extremely valuable in themselves, but as reflecting great credit on Captain Moore and Meer Akbar Alee, to whose tact and good judgment is due what has been effected amongst those primitive people. Perhaps also, it may be viewed as a cause for satisfaction, that one of our Native Indian fellow subjects of the higher class, should be seen associated with British Officers in an expedition like the present, and displaying equal zeal and diligence with them in the public service.

9. While my camp was at Addigrat, a venerable and intellectual looking priest of the Abyssinian Church, named Mamair Tekla Alpha, who holds an analogous position to our own archdeacons, was introduced to me. He belongs to the monastery of Goondegoondeh, the site of which is incorrectly marked in most maps, it being situated among the mountains about a day's journey to the south-east of Addigrat. Nothing could exceed the courtesy and desire to oblige displayed by the old priest. As he was on the point of returning to his monastery, he offered to guide thither a party of Officers and show them its archaeological and literary treasures. He mentioned that, on the approach of the Gallah invaders, in the year *circa* 540, numbers of manuscripts had been conveyed from the other religious buildings in the country and deposited for safety at Goondegoondeh, the situation of which is very difficult of access. The churches whence those writings had been carried having been burned shortly afterwards by the Muhammadan invaders, their property has remained to this day unclaimed at Goondegoondeh. The above account tempted me strongly to accept the priest's offer, and cause the monastery to be examined by competent Officers. But when it was ascertained that the Chief Aito Barceas, of Aganeh, who is in rebellion against Prince Kassa, was then roving in our vicinity with his followers, the priest did not think it expedient that a party of British Officers should be placed in his way. He was, therefore, suffered to return alone to the monastery, after having

been presented with a watch for himself, and a large piece of silk to serve as an altar cloth. A pair of spectacles, which I happened to be able to spare, was also given to him. He was greatly delighted with them, and, after trying them, declared that he had been old and was now young. Before leaving he promised to send me a list of the manuscripts existing in the monastery, and Mr. Holmes, of the British Museum, to whom I introduced him, advanced him a small sum to cover the expense of preparing the list. We did not see him again while at Addigrat. But yesterday he himself arrived at this place with the list in his hand, apparently much disappointed that the difficulties of the way had prevented him from keeping his appointment with us at Addigrat. A copy of the list is attached, marked G. It appears to contain only the names of known writings. But the priest informs me that the monastery contains some carved stones; also manuscripts in, to him, unknown characters, probably Arabic or Greek. Therefore I am in hopes that when, on the homeward march of the Army, it will be practicable to pay a visit to Goondegoondeh, other objects of interest may there be discovered.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure A.

Copy of translation of Letter from Dejasmatch Kassa.

In the name of the Trinity.

Salutations. From Dejasmatch Kassa, Chief of the Governors of Ethiopia, to Sir Robert Napier, Commander-in-Chief of the English.

May God bring us face to face.

Your letter reached me. I am longing to see you. Leeka Maknas Ulma and Abba Gabra Ewaskal arrived safely, and have brought me much pleasure.

I am coming.

I set out on Thursday.

Written on day of Yekabit (19th February).

Enclosure B.

Copy of translation of Letter from His Excellency Sir R. Napier to Prince Kassa, dated 20th February 1868.

In the name of the Trinity.

Salutations. From His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Queen of England in Abyssinia, to His Highness Prince Kassa of Ethiopia.

Your letter reached me.

God willing, we will have a personal interview.

My troops are advancing, and I must hasten forward, but until Saturday I will await your coming.

Should Your Highness be unable to come, I should wish you to send me one with whom I could converse with full confidence and without reserve.

Enclosure C.

Copy of Major Grant's, C.B., Report upon a mission to Dejatch Gubra Michael, commonly called Garra-Michael of Hawzien.

Head Quarters, Camp Ad Abageh,
21st February 1868.

Sir, I have the honour to report that, agreeably to instructions received from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, I left this camp yesterday, in company with Captain Speedy and Mr. Mircha Werke for the purpose of reporting upon the road and a camp between here and Hawzien, west-

north-west, and of ascertaining from Dejatch Gubra Michael, the Governor of Hawzien, when and at what place the Prince Kassa, ruler of Tigre, would be able to have an interview with His Excellency. Also, of requesting the above Governor to direct his people to convey sufficient grain, grass, and flour to the British camp.

I had made the acquaintance of the Dejatch at Adwa, and liked his manly intelligent look much. Upon that occasion he spoke in praise of the English in open Court before his Prince, and his venerable appearance gave importance to the expressions he used.

The journey occupied us four hours and a half, and we calculated the distance at 12 to 13 miles. Water was met with at four places, and grass was abundant everywhere. The road is good the whole way, except where the River Senloo has to be crossed. It runs through a narrow pass, and the path down to the water and up from it is quite impracticable for wheeled conveyances, being a drop of 400 feet below the general level of the country. We crossed the river, by stepping-stones, a hundred yards above its junction with another and similar stream.

While marching, the servant of the Dejatch met us from Hawzien, and said that his master would be obliged if Mr. M. Werke would come over to give him the news, and to arrange the interview between His Excellency and the Prince. We thereon told this messenger to return and say that our party was coming.

Lieutenant Pottinger, of the Quartermaster-General's Department, had accompanied us as far as the River Mai Deeab, and we agreed with him that the left bank of this river was in every respect a suitable place for the interview of His Excellency with Prince Kassa.

On arrival at the scattered village of Hawzien, a priest came forward and recognized us. The Dejatch had gone to church, we could not see him till after worship, and we had better pass the time by examining the building, &c. It resembles all other churches, but it is protected by an inner and also an outer wall of stone. There are two gateways, one to the north and one to the west, in this outer wall. The interior is in an unfinished state, and the ceiling—of domes and divisions—is covered over with Indian chintz, giving it the effect of having been painted. Inquiries were made of the deacon for old manuscripts, but he assured us that he had none dating further back than 30 years. Leaves from an Amharic Bible, printed upon paper in London (?), were seen about.

We now proceeded to the house of the Governor, the Dejatch Gubra Michael, or, more commonly called Dejatch Garra-Michael. He sat at one end of a court or booth, with a few followers by him, and rose to receive us. Having shook hands, Captain Speedy and I sat to his left upon a couch, and Mr. M. Werke sat at the feet of the Dejatch.

After the usual compliments, he expressed great regret that we had not told him we were coming ; he had nothing worthy enough for us, &c., &c. His first anxiety was food for our escort.* What would they eat and drink?

Presently they were amply provided with flour, butter, and tobacco for themselves, and grain and grass for their horses. We, and afterwards our servants, had dinner served us in Abyssinian fashion before the Dejatch and his gathering.

Watching for an opportunity, I explained the purpose of our visit through Captain Speedy and Mr. M. Werke, and hoped that it would suit the Prince to meet our Commander-in-Chief at Mai Deeab, the place selected by the Assistant Quartermaster-General, half way between Hawzien and the British camp, upon Saturday, the 22d instant.

To our surprise, the Dejatch replied that his Prince particularly wanted to give a grand dinner to His Excellency and his army, and that Hawzein must be the rendezvous, and not Mai Deeab ; also, that Saturday, the 22d, was too early a date for the meeting to take place.

These and other arguments were harped on by the Dejatch from seven till half-past ten at night, and no result was effected.

We assured him that his Prince, in his letters to our Chief, had never mentioned Hawzien as the rendezvous ; that we had artillery with us, and we could not waste time by preparing a road, *via* Hawzien, to Antalo, when we had already made one from our present camp ; that a young soldier like Prince Kassa would think little of the fatigue of half a day's march, and that this was an opportunity which the Dejatch, his true friend, should insist on taking advantage of.

It was agreed to talk the matter over in the morning, and the Dejatch retired into his house. The Embassy were of opinion that the Dejatch was influenced in what he said, first, by the presence of one of Prince Kassa's couriers, and, secondly, although he really wished for the interview to come off, he would not say so openly, thinking that Prince Kassa's dignity would be compromised by any concession.

This morning, by taper light we paid the Dejatch a farewell visit in his house, and asked him to tell us, as soldiers, what reply we were to convey to our Commander-in-Chief. Would Prince Kassa be able to meet us upon Saturday, or would he not ? and would Mai Deeab suit the Prince ? The reply was, "On Saturday the Prince cannot meet His Excellency ; Sunday is a day of rest ; but, upon Monday the Prince will meet His Excellency at Mai Deeab." We saw that no other reply could be got from the Dejatch, and ordered that our horses be brought to the door.

The Dejatch assured us that grain, grass, &c. would be conveyed by his people to our camp. Before leaving, he said that there were some troublesome rebels in the Ivah (Eye-va) hill, whom he wished us to punish with our artillery. We replied, shortly, that we had come to make friends with all Abyssinians, except Theodorus, and his request could not be complied with.

The Dejatch expressed thanks for the presents* sent by His Excellency, but declined to accept them for himself, saying, "If Prince Kassa gives them to me, I shall be glad to keep them;" and, upon our asking him to name any article he wished to be the possessor of, he replied, "I want for nothing. God has been good to me, and I am happy with my wife and family."

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. GRANT, Major, C.B.,
Intelligence Department.

Enclosure D.

Copy of Letter from Sir R. NAPIER to Prince KASSA.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Salutations. From His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir R. Napier, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commander-in-Chief in Abyssinia of Her Majesty the Queen of England's Forces, to His Highness Prince Kassa, of Ethiopia.

Will your Highness kindly inform me by the messenger whom I now send whether the interview which we mutually desire can take place to-morrow afternoon at Mai Deab, near Deodeva.

I have been anxious to show your Highness the British soldiers and guns which form my personal escort. But your Highness, as a soldier, must be aware that the movements of war will wait for no one. I regret that I am under the necessity of proceeding on my way towards Magdala on Sunday morning. Should your Highness be able to meet me in the course of to-morrow that we may discuss matters of mutual importance to us, it will be well. But if it should not be in your Highness's power to meet me yourself, then I trust your Highness will be pleased to send some confidential person to confer with me on your Highness's part.

Further, I would wish to inform you that, in my letters to England, I shall have great pleasure in making known to Her Majesty the Queen of England how great your friendship has been to me, and to all her subjects.

Signed and sealed on the 21st day of February 1868.

Enclosure E.

Copies of Letters received from Magdala in His Excellency Sir R. Napier's camp, Adabagee, on 20th February 1868.

No. 1.

Mr. RASSAM to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel, Magdala, 30th January 1868.

I write to you with a sad heart and depressed mind, in consequence of our money difficulties. You will be sorry to learn that no less than six messengers, besides the two who brought me your letter from Senafé, are coming to this place with only 400 dollars, instead of 1,200, as they ought to have brought. It is said that Abdullah Effendi had refused to give them more. This is really very unfortunate, because we are all bothered for the want of money. The Emperor having come so near, every distressed Abyssinian, or a person who expects me to keep him from starving, comes to us for succour, and sometimes we are obliged to behave stingily for want of ample funds. Abyssinia has never been in such a wretched condition as it is at present. In the royal camp, the people are literally starving; and in consequence of bad food and want of nourishing eatables, almost every Abyssinian is afflicted with the itch, as you will see by looking at the bearer of this letter, who has been long in camp. Some people who have rendered me assistance, and others of whom I expect it, I should not like to refuse aid; and our money has now got so short again that I am obliged to act the economical, and put off paying the servants their wages.

As the Emperor is now in this neighbourhood, it would be dangerous for us to receive newspapers and letters wherein there might be objectionable subjects for our friend Bob. Shrimps would always be ready to translate any abuse with the greatest accuracy. There was a passage in 's letter, which you kindly sent me with your letters under reply, would have made Bob's hair stand on end. I do not think would have written so strongly, had he known that his letter would reach me while I am in prison. To prevent any mischief, I think it would be advisable to stop all letters and newspapers henceforth from being sent from the British camp hither. I hope, therefore, that you will kindly detain all letters and newspapers that may come for any of my

fellow-prisoners or myself. When you send me money, please only write to me a few lines apprising me of the sum sent and giving me some harmless news. When you wish to communicate to me anything important, touching your movements or anything else, kindly send me such a communication in figures, and let the messenger sew the slip of paper in his trousers. The letter which contains an unimportant subject, the messenger should carry with the money. I have told all my fellow prisoners that I was going to write to you to stop all letters and newspapers from coming here, and I said that if they did not want their letters to be stopped, they could write and ask you to open them before you could forward them hither, and see that none were sent which contained any abusive language against our dear friend. I believe they would all rather wait until you arrive here than have their letters read. As far as I am concerned, I would prefer that all my letters should remain in your safe keeping until we meet, which, I hope, will be ere long. I only wish that you could have come on with the force which was under your command when you last wrote to me. I feel confident that you would have succeeded in gaining the desired end, and without much trouble, and by this time everything would have been settled to the entire satisfaction of the British public. I hope and trust that you will be able to surround this place before we are joined by the disappointed monarch. If he does not make a better progress he will not be here with his large guns before the middle of March, but if he determines upon joining us he can be here in eight or ten hours' ride. We are sorry to hear that another ultimatum has been sent to him, because it is feared that, if he find time, he will take us away from here, and in that case your difficulties will increase a hundredfold. His Majesty has determined not to listen to any letter or ultimatum after he received our Queen's letter of the 4th October 1866, and an ultimatum might only endanger our lives and create no end of complications which ought to be avoided. If what we have heard be true, that Choorie was the bearer of the last ultimatum, there is no fear of his venturing into the royal camp after he had once made himself scarce. The news of the British troops having invaded Abyssinia is talked about everywhere, even in the royal camp, but we are not yet certain whether the individual concerned has heard yet of the approach of our army. From all I can make out, I think he has received the intelligence through Tigré. The detachment which left this for the royal camp on the 7th instant returned on the 26th, with about 180 native prisoners and the five European prisoners who had tried to run away last year. The latter, Messrs. Staiger, Brandis, Essler, Schiler (Germans), and Makerer (a Frenchman), have been made over to me by order of the Emperor, and they are now reckoned as belonging to my party. When they were brought here by the Chiefs, the royal couriers delivered to me the following message:—"How are you? how are you my son? I send you five countrymen of yours, whom I wish you to receive and keep with the other Europeans you have with you. Be of good cheer, my son, I shall soon be with you." The Chief who received them from the King told me that His Majesty had intended at first to send them to the common prison with the natives, but after a little reflection he said, "I fear my friend Aito Rassam would grieve if I did so. It would be better, therefore, to make them over to him and he will take care of them." The poor fellows are glad that they have been sent here, because they would have been in a bad plight had they been sent to join the native prisoners, of whom there are now 600 souls. I have sent again to Wagshoon Gobazeh to try and get him to do the needful, but I fear this last attempt will prove of as little avail as the former ones. He is now in Wadela, bragging more than ever. If he would only act more energetically, and boast less, he might settle matters at once, but you might as well expect a horse to canter backwards as to see an Abyssinian attacking Bob. A few days ago I received a letter from Manilek, wherein he informed me that his ambassador, whom he had sent to England, had returned to Zaila, with an answer from Her Majesty the Queen, wherein he had been promised the kingdom of Abyssinia. I believe this is a mere fabrication by the ambassador, as I can scarcely believe that our Queen would send him such an answer. The usual postscript of the royal house of Shoa was added to the letter, viz. a request for some medicine for the common disease of Abyssinia, of which I believe the unfortunate lad who styles himself King of Kings is suffering. He sent us 150 dollars. Mrs. Rosenthal has joined her husband, of which I am extremely glad, as she has had no end of trouble since we left her. * * * (Remembrances.) I enclose you some notes which I have received from Mr. and Mrs. Flad for your perusal.

Yours, &c.,
H. RASSAM.

P.S. Please send us 200 dollars by each of the three messengers who are going to you now.

First Enclosure to above.

From Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

Jeddah River, 19th January 1868.

We were glad to learn from your two last notes that you are in good health. Thank God, we enjoy the same until now. * * * (Domestic and pecuniary references, not very intelligible.) With my knowing, there exists no pamphlet among the Europeans here regarding what you said. I did not bring a single line with me into the country. M. Bardel had some correspondence from Mr. Delmonde; and meeting him the first time in Debra, he said, "I know that Mr. Stern's letters from Magdalla and Gondar have been printed, and he, as well as Captain Cameron and " Mr. Rosenthal, and Mr. Staiger and you (myself), made me a bad name in Europe.* All of you " charge me to be the cause of their misery," which is false; but I don't think that anything printed exists in his hands. Still I must say it was

* Sic in original.

very foolish and imprudent of Mr. Stern to write anything against His Majesty and people, whilst he is in the country, and it was unwise of his friends in England to have his letter printed and spread over the world. If one should have found its way back, it certainly would have had bad consequences for all of us. Many thanks for your kindness, sending us mules, and I think it best to send them back, as I fear that our journey to Magdala will still take us a month and a half. The Magdala people and prisoners, it is said, will be sent when His Majesty arrives in Babba. Mrs. Rosenthal will come with them. She is already in their camp. I am sorry to say that I can't send you any servants, as we are all, together with our servants, very strictly watched. From some remarks, it might appear that His Majesty knows something of what is going on; the better if he knows of it. * * * (Domestic references.) The last two nights all the male Europeans, except Messrs. — and —, had to sleep with His Majesty. It is very apprehensive and uneasy to be near him. I am thankful that you had the kindness to give to Colonel Merewether always some news from me. * * * (Remembrance, &c.)

T. M. FLAD.

Second Enclosure.

From same to same. No date.

Dear Sir,

If you write to Colonel Merewether, I should feel obliged if you would thank him for his two kind and interesting letters. The same you might do to M. Munzinger. To write myself, I shall wait until I know that His Majesty is acquainted with what is going on. You may tell Colonel Merewether that there is no hope that His Majesty will open battle to them, or stand before them. My own anticipation is, that the King wishes to negotiate with them as soon as they come near, and their stratagem will be, if they wish to save you and all the Europeans' life, to enter apparently into his negotiations until they have liberated you and the others. Then they may do whatever they please. I have the idea that the King has some hope that the English will help him to his lost empire, what they will never do; but if they won't hold out for him any hope, we may be sure of his indignation, and all sorts of tortures. I did not mean that you should send that letter in which I spoke about the guns.

Yours,
T. M. FLAD.

Third Enclosure.

Mrs. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

23d February 1868.

Your note from yesterday, sent us by Captain Cameron's servant, reached us to-day. My husband had just time to read it, and tell me what to reply to you. Regarding the money you wish him to get, he says there is very little hope that Mr. — would advance any. All the rest are anxious as to how they should manage for the next future. * * * (Domestic references, remembrances, &c.) His Majesty's solicitations towards all the prisoners are getting more anxious than any of them would care. In fact, they are watched day and night. The whole day they pass working under His Majesty's supervision. Their supper goes down to the King's place, where some small tents have been pitched for them. The reason His Majesty himself gave for his conduct is, that the Europeans are so very much hated by his soldiers that he feared some mischief might be done to them. What a gigantic lie! Mr. — who is not exempt this time, has let out some piece of information about these proceedings. He persists that an English army is already in the country; that the King has got some wind of it,—nay, that they are coming by Elsheo; and that, for this reason, the King fears lest the Europeans might try to run off. Mr. Waldemayer declared this is one of Mr. — weak-brained whims; but he and all the rest of them are saying most earnestly, "If it were but true, for the yoke presses harder and harder upon every one." The road is getting on very slowly. It seems that His Majesty is not even in a hurry with it. Grain and every other provision for life is getting very rare again. We are, thank God, well. It is a great mercy; and I hope and trust this letter will find you so too.

Yours, &c.,
P. FLAD.

No. 2.

Mr. RASSAM to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel, Magdala, 30th January 1868.

Many thanks for your kind letters of the 24th November and 18th ultimo. Please send me some money by the bearer, —, and his two companions, as soon as possible, as we have scarcely enough funds to last us through the whole of the next month.

H. RASSAM.

P.S. The Emperor is extremely kind, and always sends me polite messages. He is now very near. Thank God, we are all well.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 29th January 1868.

Many thanks for your kind note of the 24th November. * * * The very idea of your being busy makes my mouth water. The 19 months of *otium sine dignitate* is indeed too much,—beyond even the computation of an Eugene Sue, who never came upon such a rich idea when he wrote his “Paresse.” We have not as yet rejoiced our hearts with a sight of the “Theodorus,” the splendid dead weight Bob drags along with him. Its embored condition makes it none the less a weighty bore for the faithful peasants and valiant soldiers. At last, the peasants of Daont have followed the example given to them by their neighbours of Dalanta, and laid their peace offering at the feet of the ruler of Magdala. I fervently hope that, before long, they will meet with the reward they so richly deserve. From the camp, news are still favourable for us; not much to eat, grain scanty, and soon, for animal food, they will be reduced to the *acarus scabiens*, the only species of animal creation that the Amhara warriors have had the pleasure to enjoy since many months. Every day, numbers of soldiers, even some Chiefs of note, take advantage of the cover the banks of the river afford, to take French leave and abandon the noble cause they serve. One of the Chiefs was allowed, a few evenings ago, the great privilege of dining from the same basket as His Majesty. After dinner, he was presented with a beautiful pistol. As soon as he reached his tent, he called some of his friends and followers, about 40 altogether, and wisely marched off. He knew that after high tide a very low ebb generally follows. Aware of this feature in his worthy master's character, he prudently took to his heels in time. The ascent towards Dalanta is begun, but is necessarily very slow. However, from your latest accounts, I would not mind giving odds that the turtle will win, after all. On Sunday last, 180 prisoners were brought here; with them, the five Europeans and Mrs. Rosenthal. The five have been sent to us with such a polite message that, until the next messenger from Bob arrives, I will be on the look out for an additional link to our mutual affection. Fancy the impertinence of that fellow, the Wagshoom, sending a sarcastic message to His Imperial Majesty. No one will deny that this one was quite justified in sentencing to a speedy death the wretched messenger. You might say that it is not according to the oldest of Abyssinian customs, which considers sacred the property and lives of messengers; “mais nous avons changé tout cela,” exclaims our Colonel Bob; and the utter want of manner on the part of the ungrateful Wagshoom was so glaring that all who witnessed that little scene could but applaud at the dignified conduct of the Christian monarch. There is also some talk of the Wagshoom having made his appearance on the Wadela side of the Jeddah; but, fear not, our gracious friend will not be molested in his advance. Oh, no, joke apart, be not anxious on his account, the Wagshoom is so prudent. The five speak in high terms of His Majesty's behaviour towards them. It is true, they were for a long time naked, in hand-chains, a few of their servants killed, and that they made a few marches doubled up; but in other respects they were well treated. Last rainy season, His Majesty, having been informed that they were closely packed (a number of bad natives overcrowding the place) ordered a general clearance of some 70 individuals to be made at once; an empty hut and a little fire did away with the nuisance. I have heard a good deal of bosh lately, such as “no bad order from His Majesty would be listened to;” horrid!—why they would rather anticipate his wishes in that respect; refusing to obey the most trifling order in that respect is rebellion or death. O gods! fancy Bob's creatures, out of love and affection for R., exposing themselves even to a glance of anger. *Hélas!* poor Mrs. Rosenthal must know something about [illegible], as the many repeated entreaties on the subject would not induce the Chiefs to let her in until she had waited some six hours in the sun. Experience *docet*. I have come to the conclusion that I will never make of my boys missionaries (and pray forgive me) or politicals.—Manillas, if you please. Keep my letters, but kindly send me a few additions or multiplications to make; we spend a few minutes making them out. By the by, my account of the pamphlet was incorrect. We have made inquiries, and are happy to say not such a thing exists. Quick, quick, cut him off. Show him that he has no chance if he does not listen to reason, and then I have good hopes of having the pleasure of smoking a cheroot and drinking a glass of brandy soda in our brave deliverer's tent. Good bye. Kindly forward the enclosed letter (*viz.*, to Dr. Stovell, 38, Mincing Lane).

Yours, &c.,
H. BLANC.

Enclosure F.

Précis of latest Intelligence from Abyssinia.

21st February 1868.

Information has been received of the state of affairs at Magdala up to the 30th January, and at the King's Camp up to 23d January. At those dates all the Europeans are well. The five Europeans and Mrs. Rosenthal, who were sent from the King's Camp to Magdala, in custody of a detachment of troops, have safely reached Magdala.

Wagshoom Gobazye is in Wadela. He had sent a sarcastic message to Theodore, by whom the messenger who brought it was immediately put to death. Little expectation is entertained of Wagshoom Gobazye attacking Theodore. The peasants of Daont have submitted to Theodore. Nevertheless, his progress towards Magdala is as slow as ever. It is calculated that, if his movements proceed at the same rate as at present, he cannot reach Magdala, with his large guns, before the middle of March; but the road is still open for him personally to reach the fortress at any time, after an eight or ten hours' ride. Provisions of every kind are said to be extremely

Scarce in his camp. It is said that his soldiers,—on one occasion, even a Chief of note,—take advantage of the cover afforded by the banks of the river, near the camp, to desert his army. But his camp fires are also said to be visible from Gobazye's position, and the latter is apparently afraid to attack him. The news of a British force having entered Abyssinia is talked about everywhere, even in the Royal Camp, but Theodore himself has not shown any sign of being aware of the fact. Manilek, the King of Shoa, continues to talk of aspiring to the empire of Ethiopia.

W. TWEEDIE, Lieutenant,
Political Secretary.

Enclosure G.

Captain H. MOORE, Persian and Arabic Interpreter to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief,
to the Political Secretary to His Excellency Sir ROBERT NAPIER, K.C.B.

Sir,

Camp Attegrat, 15th February 1868.

In reporting my return to Head Quarters this day, I have the honour to state, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that, agreeable to his instructions, I proceeded, with Meer Akbar Alee, Intelligence Department, to Rayraguddee, and, from inquiries made from the Sergeant in charge, Commissariat, who had only been there a few days, it appeared nothing had been done in the way of purchasing grass from the Shohos. I sent for the chief of the guides and the few Shohos in camp, asked them to bring in grass, explaining they would be paid for it, and, after a good deal of persuasion, they promised to do so, having at first denied that there was any grass in the hills.

On the 5th, proceeded to Undal Wells; *en route*, saw Company of Marines, under a Native Officer. He informed me that Lieutenant Beck had gone into Undal Wells, sick, and that he had dismissed the Shohos who had been working under him. I asked the Soobadar to try and find out if there was any grass in the neighbouring hills, and, if possible, make the Anderta Shohos bring it in.

At Undal Wells, Major Leven declared the progress made since Meer Akbar Alee was there most satisfactory; as much as 10,000 lbs. had been brought in one day, which was nearly the requirements of the post. I sent for the chief of the guides and the station interpreter, and, Meer Akbar Alee agreeing with me, we sent them to Rayraguddee, to persuade the Shohos there to bring in grass.

The price paid for grass at Undal Wells is high, one dollar for 150 lbs.

I now went on to Sooroo, and was glad to find that Lieutenant Stevenson, in charge, Commissariat, had already made a beginning. The patient and conciliatory manner of this Officer seems to have won the confidence of the Shohos, which leads me to hope that, in time, he will succeed in getting a very fair quantity of grass. The day after my arrival, I made an excursion into the hills, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Little, commanding 25th Native Light Infantry, Lieutenant Stevenson, and Meer Akbar Alee. We crossed over some stony ranges of hills, which led into a valley, where we found a small quantity of water; going up the valley for some distance, and passing several Shoho hamlets, where we spoke to the people, and explained our object, we reached the hills where the grass came from; this convinced the party what they were slow to believe before, viz., the distance from camp the grass was brought from, and the difficult nature of the ground the Shohos had to go over, for here we saw them at work, cutting the grass which they intended bringing into Sooroo the next day. We also took the opportunity of bringing in specimens of all trees upon which wild elephants were said to feed. This excursion served to show us that grass was not plentiful, the distance from camp great, and the population of those parts scanty, many having already removed, with their cattle, to the Koomayloo range, where rain had fallen, and fresh grass springing up. The day following, we intended visiting the southern side of the pass, but were prevented by continued rain, the hills being enveloped in thick mist; however, we managed to get in some chief men from that side, explained our object, and, having got them to promise their aid in persuading the people to bring in grass, we dismissed them, with a few presents. The day after this interview, the grass brought in was double the quantity of the day before, and amounting to 3,000 lbs.; this is a satisfactory beginning, and, as I said before, much of the credit is due to Lieutenant Stevenson, for his patient, encouraging, and conciliatory bearing towards the Shohos; the price paid for grass here was 200 lbs. for a dollar. We now retraced our steps to Undal Wells, but not before again collecting all the Shohos in our pay together, and impressing upon them the importance we attached to the Shohos in the neighbourhood bringing in grass regularly, and in large quantities.

On reaching Undal, I was told by Major Leven that the Shohos had struck for the two previous days, because he refused to take small bundles; but that they had come to their senses, and were bringing it in fast then; nearly 17,000 lbs. had been brought in that day. Here I first heard from Mr. Ouchterlony, whom I desired to join me, which he did the next day. I explained to him what had been done at Sooroo, and, asking him to accompany me to Rayraguddee, we took note of all camel and elephant forage on the way; and, if what Mr. Ouchterlony takes to be the peepul and bur are such, there is no want of elephant forage half way between Sooroo and Undal Wells, and this last place and Rayraguddee, without even the necessity for leaving the road, to say nothing of what may be found over the hills and in the ravines; this is satisfactory, supposing Mr. Ouchterlony's surmise as to the trees we saw being peepul and bur being correct. At Undal Wells I met Mr. Dufton, who had 85 Shohos with him. I think these men might be advantageously distributed, in gangs of twenty, under their *mukkadums*, at Sooroo,

Undal Wells, and Rayraguddy, to assist the elephant Coolies to bring in forage. I suggest this, supposing it is intended to employ these elephants in carrying stores through the pass.

I wrote to Colonel Lucas, Chief Commissariat Officer, my views on the subject of feeding the elephants, at the same time suggesting that, before they were sent up, Mr. Ouchterlony, accompanied by an interpreter who knew Arabic and Hindoostanee, with one or two of his oldest and best elephant drivers, should, with the aid of the Shoho mukkadums at the different posts, explore the hills and ravines, with a view to ascertaining where and in what quantity fresh forage for elephants was procurable.

On our return to Rayraguddee, I was glad to find the Shohos had been bringing in grass for three or four days, and the last day we were there the quantity amounted to nearly 3,000 lbs. This is a satisfactory beginning, and the Commissariat Officer hopes to get in more. Price paid for grass here is the same as at Undal Wells, high—150 lbs. per dollar.

To this station (Rayraguddee) a large quantity of forage is sent from Senafé and deposited in the transport lines; a great deal of wastage takes place, and there is no suitable place to store it in. I asked the Officer commanding to have a place made, which he promised to do at once, and I would suggest that the grass be received and issued under the superintendence of the Commissariat, a special Non-commissioned Officer being appointed to the duty, with proper scales for weighing, &c. At Senafé I also spoke to Major Thacker, and mentioned the subject to General Malcolm, also to General Wilby, whom I saw at Rayraguddee.

From the above, His Excellency will learn that our attempt to carry out his wishes have to a certain extent been attended with success. At Undal Wells the supply exceeds the demand for that post; at Sooroo and Rayraguddee a satisfactory beginning has been made; in stating this, I express also the opinions of the Commissariat Officers at these stations.

As stated before in a note to His Excellency, getting forage for camels at the posts was a difficult matter, and after full inquiry from the natives, and consulting with Commissariat and other Officers at the different stations, grazing appears to be the only means of feeding camels, to a certain extent, independent of the Commissariat, and to be effective this should be done under proper supervision, the grazing ground for camels begins from half way between Upper Sooroo and Undal Wells to the foot of the Senafé ascent. If forage must be brought in, grass would be the best, and most economical; camels should always be brought into the station before dark, and a small quantity of grass or grain given, if they have to work next day.

But, after all the inquiries I have made, and examining parts of the country myself, together with observing the character of the Shohos and their migratory habits, I cannot help coming to the conclusion that, should our best anticipations become realized, we can only hope to assist the Commissariat out of the very scanty supply of forage actually to be found in the country below Senafé, and that it would be unwise to expect that any of the stations in the pass could, for any length of time, be rendered independent of imported forage.

In conclusion, I wish to be allowed to make known to His Excellency that Meer Akbar Alee, from his knowledge of Arabic and general intelligence, was of the greatest use to me, indeed we acted together in all dealings with the Shohos, a wild and independent tribe, who require a great deal of humouring before they can be persuaded to do anything which is clearly to their advantage.

I should also mention that Lieutenant Sturt, an active and intelligent Officer, has been appointed by Major Warden exclusively to attend to the grass supply, to find out where it is to be found, and induce the Shohos to bring it in; but I regret to say that the Medical Officer at Undal Wells gave it as his opinion that he was unfit to proceed with me any further as he was suffering from the effects of a ride into Zoula from Sooroo, going about the camp all day there, and riding back to Sooroo in the evening, a hurry for which I told him before he started there was no necessity whatever, but which he appears to have persisted in to the serious injury of his health.

I have, &c.,

H. MOORE, Captain,
Persian and Arabic Interpreter to His Excellency
the Commander-in-Chief, on special duty.

Enclosure H.

Translation of a List of Books preserved in the Library of the Church of Gounda Gounda.

The Number of the Books in the Church.

Old and New Testament.

1 Genesis.	2 Job.	1 Micah.	1 Tobias.
1 Exodus.	1 Psalms.	1 Joel.	1 Esther.
1 Leviticus.	1 Solomon.	1 Habakkuk.	1 Maccabees.
1 Numbers.	5 Isaias.	1 Jonas.	2 Sirac.
1 Deuteronomy.	1 Jeremias.	1 Nahum.	
1 Joshua.	1 Ezekiel.	1 Zephaniah.	2 Evangelia.
1 Judges.	1 Daniel.	1 Haggai.	4 Paulus.
1 Ruth.	1 Obadiah.	1 Zechariah.	14 Epistles of Apostles.
1 1st Kings.	1 Hosca.	1 Malachias.	6 Apocalypses.
1 2d Kings.	1 Amos.	1 Judith.	1 Acts of Apostles.
2 Ezra.			

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|---|---|
| 5 Decrees of Synods. | 1 Gadil Hawaryat (Acts of the Apostles?). |
| 1 Aragowi Menfusawai (Life of St. Aragowi of Debra Damo). | 12 Abou Shaka. |
| 1 Mar Isaac. | 1 Sinka Sar. |
| 1 Philkiasias. | 1 Amut Dirsani Ephraim (Sermons of Saint Ephraem Syrus?). |
| 1 Fetha Negust (Laws of the Kingdom). | 1 Nunvari Mariam. |
| 1 Afa Werk. | 1 Baruch. |
| 1 Cyrillus. | 1 Biritus. |
| 1 Hewi (Fire). | 1 Cyprianus. |
| 1 Book of Mysteries. | 1 Socinius. |
| 1 Tsidil. | 1 Maydin (?). |
| 1 Herma and (Pastor Hermas?). | 1 Rei Thomas (Vision of St. Thomas). |
| 1 Ziena Abou (History of the Fathers?). | |

A true translation.

T. C. S. SPEEDY.

RICHARD R. HOLMES, F.S.A., Archæologist.



Camp Ad Abaga, 22d February 1868.

No. 35.

Sir ROBERT NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 20th March).

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp, Ad-baga,

22nd February 1868.

Right Hon. Sir,

Since the date of my last report I have advanced from Addigerat to Ad-baga, a distance of two marches. At this place I have halted for two days under the expectation of receiving a visit from Kassai, Prince of Tigre. As yet he has not arrived in the vicinity of my camp, though he is reported to have left Adowa. An interview with him would be of great importance in order to make arrangements for the security of our telegraph and the safety of our convoys through his territory, as well as for the appointment of head men along the line of our route with whom to communicate, but we cannot afford to wait indefinitely for a visit which may never be made.

The prince has doubtless great difficulty in putting aside the custom of his country, which requires that he should not leave his capital for 40 days after his installation on the throne, and not unnaturally has some hesitation in trusting himself in a stranger's camp.

The necessary despatch of the mail at mid-day to-day will I fear prevent my communicating to you whether Kassai comes in or not.

Since the army has arrived on the highlands of Abyssinia the climate has been found most favourable for Europeans, and from all accounts continues so throughout the year. I have therefore considered it advisable to dispense with nearly all native Indian followers except those employed in the hospitals and for the carriage of sick or wounded.

No private followers of any description are to be allowed. Officers are to depend upon soldiers as their servants. The syces and nearly all the grass cutters of the cavalry are to be dispensed with, as in a climate so similar to Europe there is no reason why the trooper, whether native or British, should not groom and cut grass for his own horse. The followers dispensed with are to be immediately sent back to the sea coast, where their feeding will require no carriage. By this reduction the Commissariat will be relieved of about 4,000 mouths to feed on the highlands. At Antalo a depôt will be formed. Beyond that place I mean to move with still further reduced baggage and camp equipment, in order to devote every portion of transport possible to the important duty of conveying supplies. Officers will be limited to 75 lbs. of baggage, including bedding, and will live three together in each bell tent. The soldiers' kit will be reduced to a maximum of 25 lbs., including bedding.

The annexed return shows the carriage and followers which will be allowed to a British regiment in comparison with what it would be allowed under the Indian regulations.

I have directed that as far as possible the names of places as spelled on the map prepared by the Topographical Department of the War Office may be shown in parenthesis, besides the proper names on sketches and reports prepared in this country. By this means people in England will be able to follow the incidents of the campaign on that map, and yet the correct names will be recorded.

With reference to my halt here, it is necessary to explain that I received a telegram from Sir Charles Staveley on the 18th, informing me that he could not send forward the troops necessary to render the advance effective. The reason of this was that in the

present limited state of the transport service it was impossible to send up provisions for these troops or to supply more than immediate wants. Hence a halt was absolutely necessary at some point, and it was advisable to make it here where a useful purpose might be served by an interview with Kassai. As transport animals are rapidly arriving at Zoulla from Berbera and Kassala it is to be hoped that this temporary difficulty may be quickly overcome, and that the advance beyond Antalo may not be delayed.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Memorandum.

Carriage required for a regiment of British infantry on the revised scale.

Strength.

30 Officers.

600 Men.

10 tents, double cloth	-	-	-	-	-	7 Mules.
30 Officers' baggage	-	-	-	-	-	15 "
Hospital tents	-	-	-	-	-	3 "
Staff serjeants and hospital establishments	-	-	-	-	-	1 "
Tents for stores and guards	-	-	-	-	-	1 "
Tents for non-commissioned officers and rank and file	-	-	-	-	-	21 "
Baggage of 600 men	-	-	-	-	-	100 "
Stores	-	-	-	-	-	1 "
Cooking utensils	-	-	-	-	-	5 "
Armourers' stores	-	-	-	-	-	1 "
Entrenching tools	-	-	-	-	-	8 "
Hospital stores	-	-	-	-	-	12 "
Sick carriage	-	-	-	-	-	12 "

Total exclusive of spare ammunition - - - - - 187 Mules.

Followers.

Bheesties	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Cooks	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Doolie bearers	-	-	-	-	-	-	36

Total followers, public and private, for a regiment - - - - - 96

In India they would be entitled to 1,200 mules, carrying 200 lbs. each, 240,000 lbs.

Now, 187 mules at 150 lbs. each, 28,050 lbs.

In India entitled to 600 followers. Here 96.

No. 36.

From Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commanding the Forces in Abyssinia, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India
(received 23rd March).

(No. 597 of 1868.)

Quartermaster General's Office, Head Quarters, Camp Dolo,

RIGHT HON. SIR,

29th February 1868.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the reports noted in the margin received from Colonel

1. Report, dated Dolo, 13th February 1868.

2. Report, dated 14th February 1868, on the route from Dolo to Eikhullut.

3. Report, dated 15th February 1868, on the route from Eikhullut to Antalo village.

4. Report, dated King's Camp near Antalo, 17th February 1868.

R. Phayre, Deputy Quartermaster-General, A.E.F., in charge of the reconnoitring party.

These reports are in continuation of those forwarded with my letter, No. 453, of the 16th instant.

A plan of the whole route from Addigerat to Antalo is attached, that forwarded with my letter above referred to only showing the route from Addigerat to Dolo.

I beg also to enclose a photographed plan of the ground, showing the position of the British camp at Senafe.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commanding the Forces in Abyssinia.

ADVANCED RECONNAISSANCE.

Quartermaster-General's Report *en route* from Addigerat to Antalo; Intelligence, &c.

Camp on the left bank of the Dolo River.

Thursday, 13th February.—Halted at Dolo since the 10th instant, awaiting intelligence of the approach of General Colling's column.

Halted at Dolo.

Engaged the whole of yesterday in examining the Abba Goonga spur, with a view to opening a better line across it for mules than the present track; and ascertained that, properly, the spur should be turned by the ravine to the westward of it, commencing at the south end of the Harena valley, referred to in the report of the 10th instant, whence a good cart road the whole way to the Dolo valley may be obtained; but as such a line would involve a greater expenditure of time and labour than we can at present allow, I traced out roughly a cattle track, branching from the present road on the top of Abba Goonga, and brought it to the right bank of the Dolo river by a line as clear of granite boulders as I found possible.

	M.	F.	Yds.
Native track from the point selected on Abba Goonga to the junction in the Dolo valley	2	3	84
Quartermaster-General's route between the same points	2	5	184
Difference	0	2	100

The difference in distance between this line and the present one is as per margin.

My line has much more plain ground than the old one, as it falls on a high easy spur in the Dolo valley, and secures a gentle fall and a good natural road from that point to camp.

Since the receipt of His Excellency's instructions, dated 6th instant, I am in constant communication with Major Pierce and Lieutenant Jopp, R.E., regarding these matters, and have arranged with them that a safe and well cleared cattle-line shall be prepared across all these rugged spurs to Antalo.

From native information, I learn that there is still some stiff country to cross between this and Antalo. Having now thoroughly examined this neighbourhood, I am anxious to reconnoitre in the front, so as to be prepared for the Pioneer force, which will, I trust, be at work within seven miles of me to-day.

The disposition of the people inhabiting the Dolo valley is all that can be desired. There is no village called Dolo. The river and valley alone bear that name.

I am led to believe that large quantities of supplies of all kinds may be obtained here and onward to Antalo inclusive.

The Commissariat Officer, Lieutenant Shewell, has applied to me for permission to proceed in advance, to commence his arrangements; but, however advantageous to the interests of the whole force such an arrangement would be, I have declined to sanction it until I can proceed to Eikhullut myself with the Cavalry.

The head men of Ogra Hurreba and the vicinity, by name Aito Ubbesu and Aito Tucklee, continue their visits daily, to pay their respects, and to ascertain in what way they can be useful to us. I will give them a certificate on my departure, which they will show to successive Commanding Officers.

About 50 of the villagers were in camp yesterday, and prayed that the horses and mules might not be watered at the small irrigation channel, which brings a strong flow of water from the Ogra Hurreba hill, to supply their fields, in which there are at present flourishing green crops of wheat, barley, &c.

A sentry was at once posted, to prevent this, which is quite unnecessary, as there is abundance of flowing water in the river west of and below camp, in the gorge through which the Dolo falls into the plains below, as at Mai Mukdun and other places.

I would respectfully submit that orders be issued to all Commanding Officers to protect these cultivated fields from injury, and to water their cattle at the running stream of the Dolo, where the supply is abundant and good.

It will be seen, from the accompanying plan of Dolo and its neighbourhood, that this impassable ravine, bounded on either bank by precipices upwards of 100 feet high, a short distance below the point where the Antalo and Addigerat road crosses it, necessitates a long curve eastward to head the ground referred to, instead of going straight to Amba Antalo, as would appear to be possible, from a distant view of the country.

A sketch of the encamping ground and its vicinity is enclosed.

The best ground for encampment is on the slopes of the Ogra Hurreba line of hills.

There is a good natural drainage and firm rocky soil. A very strong military position could be taken up at Dolo, if requisite.

Received intelligence of General Colling's march from Addigerat, and that the Pioneer force will march in here to-morrow. I therefore purpose moving to Eikhullut, the last stage before Antalo, to-morrow, 14th instant.

Friday, 14th February 1868.—For the first $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles of this march, the road is very good, except

Seventh day's march from camp on the Dolo river to right bank of Eikhullut river, 9 miles.

Description of route, &c.

1st. From river to highest point of Quecha hills, 1 mile, 5 furlongs, 120 yards.

After this, the next mile and a half is a gentle descent to the fine open black soil plain of Shooga; road good for that distance.

2d. Fall of 45 feet to second watercourse in Shooga plain; distance, 1 mile, 4 furlongs, 16 yards.

which may be headed by a detour of 100 feet to the left. A little grass in this place.

After leaving the above point, a rocky ridge is at first crossed for about 100 yards, that requires to be made easy. Loose stones to be cleared from the centre part of No. 3, and a short distance

3d. Rise to top of the eastern spur of the Shefta hills, 148 feet; distance, 1 mile, 1 furlong, 180 yards.

near the top of the spur to be improved.

The work will not be heavy here.

Parts of the distance of 6 furlongs and 164 yards, specified in the margin, are rocky and bad, and will require clearing. The slope

4th. A slight fall into the Shugado plain for a distance of 3 furlongs, 112 yards, succeeded by a rise of 84 feet to top of the second spur of the Shefta hills; distance, 3 furlongs, 52 yards.

5th. Fall of 137 feet from the above into a narrow valley, in a distance of 2 furlongs, 93 yards.

&c. A good deal of work required in this part. Plenty of grass in the valley. No water on the line of road itself, but is not far distant to the eastward.

This spur is as rugged as the preceding one; the road will require to be cleared of loose stones and boulders, and the sheet rock avoided if possible. If not, it must be covered with a coating of gravel.

6th. Rise of 53 feet to top of third spur of the Shefta hills in a distance of 200 yards.

7th. Descent of a few feet, for a distance of 1 furlong, 27 yards, into the Shefta plain, south side.

There are many bad parts in this distance lying across rugged beds of rock, all of which will require to be made properly passable for laden cattle.

8th. Plain road to a dry branch of the Eikhullut stream, 7 furlongs, 173 yards.

Water *en route* at 2 furlongs from last point. Road down the plain generally good and easy, except at the last half mile, where it will require to be cleared, as

9th. From the above to the river Eikhullut, 2 miles, 3 furlongs, 110 yards.

before, of loose stones, &c. This river has a bed of deep black soil, and it is essentially necessary that, at the point where it is crossed, the bottom should be paved to a width of 12 or 15 feet with large flat stones, and both banks sloped so as to admit of free passage across it for laden cattle.

Suitable places should be selected for watering cattle *below* the point of crossing just referred to, the banks of the stream being sloped, and the bed paved, so as to facilitate that object.

We discovered with great regret that, for the last mile and a half traversed by the road, the grass of the whole country, as far as the eye can reach, has been destroyed by fire. This was probably done to ensure a fresh green crop by means of the showers of rain that usually fall about this time of year, some of which we have already had. In some parts of this plain it is already springing up, but it is not sufficiently high to be of use to us at present. The consequence is that, unless we can purchase barley or wheat straw, our grass must be cut on the Dolo road, between two and three-miles distant from our camp, and brought in by the grass-cutters.

There is a fine extensive plain on the right bank of the river at Eikhullut, but at present it is quite black from the effects of fire. The soil, moreover, is loose and friable, bearing evidence by the cracks over a large portion of it that water has recently lodged on its surface, and therefore that in wet weather such parts would not be healthy.

The only track conveniently situated for our purpose, with reference to the main water supply, and free from this objection, is one running parallel to the right bank of the river. Its extent, after full survey, will be shown in a sketch plan of the vicinity.

As a whole, the route from Dolo to Eikhullut is an easy one, and, when cleared by the Pioneer Detachment, as pointed out to Major Pierce, will present no difficulties to the safe and rapid progress of laden cattle.

Observed 40 or 50 camels grazing in the plains during this march. I see no reason why this description of transport should not be used between Addigerat and Antalo, so soon as the line has been cleared and made easy.

Saturday, 15th February, 5 a.m.—There is a toll levied on all salt passing into Antalo from the salt plain at this place. Four or five of Kassa's

Tolls at Eikhullut.

officers engaged in levying were met by us when examining the bank of the river on arrival yesterday. After a few minutes' conversation, we asked them to send in supplies, but up to sunset we procured nothing but a little firewood, straw, and about 150 lb. of barley.

It may be necessary to move into Antalo to-day, in consequence of this unexpected want of

grain for our cattle, which we did not provide against by bringing on any from Dolo, owing to the information received there that a plentiful supply of everything would be obtained.

The crops here are said to have been destroyed by the locusts, but whether this is true or merely put forth as an excuse for demanding exorbitant rates, it is impossible at present to say. I infer the latter, as four or five dollars were asked for a sheep. Some of the people who came to camp with barley straw were willing to sell it at reasonable prices, but were prevented by some of the headmen, the toll gatherers referred to above.

Should nothing come in up to 8 or 9 a.m., I propose to move on to Antalo.

Soon after our arrival here yesterday, two messengers from the Chief of Woggerat, south of Antalo, arrived in camp with a letter and presents, as per margin, for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Messengers, Abba Merkoorios, a monk, and Hailo Miraim, with the following:—

- 3 skins of wheaten flour.
- 1 skin of honey.
- 1 skin of grain and peper flour.
- 1 pot of ghee.

They represented that they were sent by Shum Salowa Barar Gurgis, of Umhoney Woggerat, from whom they brought a letter to the effect that he was prepared to collect supplies for the army, and to give every information

regarding the route through his country, &c.

They state that they were ordered to come to the first English Commander *en route*, and that if the Commander-in-Chief were not in advance, one was to take the letter to him, and the other remain with the advanced troops.

I, therefore, send one with the sowars proceeding with this despatch. As they state that their donkey is too tired to proceed quickly to Addigerat with the presents, I have delivered them over to the charge of Lieutenant Shewell of the Commissariat Department, and enclose his receipt.

The monk knows the route from this so far as Lato and Gavut Murkoros, south of Ashangi, and states that that is the best supplied and easiest route for the army.

Route Southward from Antalo to—

Esbutto.	Doa.
Bart Mara.	Ashangi.
Attaba.	Lato.
Eiwa.	Givat Murkoros.
Buttago.	

He will remain in my camp pending His Excellency's orders.

Lieutenant Shewell recognized these men as having come to him at Focada about a fortnight ago. They were evidently sent there to see what was going on in our camps. They then

returned to their Chief, who has now come forward with the presents and offers of service above reported.

The usual plans of yesterday's march and of the camp will be despatched to-morrow.

Saturday, 15th February.—The nearest village to the encamping ground at Eikhullut, or Chelicut, situated in a valley some 500 or 600 feet below its

Eighth day's march.

From Eikhullut River to the King's camp of the village of Antalo, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

general level, to the westward. It was hoped that the head man of Chelicut would have sent in supplies of corn, &c., for sale, a message having been sent to him to that effect; he, however, failed to do so. Having, therefore, no grain, and all the grass near at hand having been burnt up, the march to Antalo was commenced at 9 a.m. this day.

The left bank of the Eikhullut river is bounded by a range of low hills, called Area Fetch.

The Area Fetch hills.

On their slopes, drier and better, though stony, encamping ground can be had than on the plain north of the right bank.

Encamping ground on left bank of river.

There is good ground on the spur that bounds the river on the latter bank, but it is narrow.

The description of the route is as follows:—

Across very stony ground, otherwise good, the road leading southward is the Woggerat road, by Hoodamo. The westward one leads to Afghool and Antalo. The average height of these hills is 400 feet above the river bed.

From left bank of river to cross roads at foot of Area Fetch pass, on the Antalo road, 5 furlongs, 20 yards.

2d. Up the pass to top of the zigzag, 5 furlongs, 90 yards; rise, 254 feet.

The road up is very good, except the last 60 or 70 yards up the zigzag, which is very steep and bad, and must be avoided.

Loose stones only to be cleared from the rest. Road very bad, from loose stones and sheet rock; nearly the whole of this distance will require to be made good.

3d. Across undulating rocky ground to foot of Ugguraro hill, 3 furlongs, 33 yards.

Ugguraro is a limestone range, covered with granite boulders, similar to those on Abba Goonga; nearly all the hills around, and some of the plains up to and beyond Antalo, are covered with them.

Granite boulders.

The first ascent is very rugged and bad; the easier one, to the highest point, is pretty good.

4th. To top of Ugguraro, 4 furlongs, 155 yards; rise of 154 feet.

A fine view of the country southward and westward from this point.

5th. Across stony plateau, 4 furlongs, 125 yards.

Should be cleared of the loose stones, and boulders of the sheet rock avoided or covered.

6th. Fall into the valley, Ugguraro, 4 furlongs, 117 yards; fall, 147 feet.

This is a very bad rugged fall; a new and easier line should be taken.

Rugged and bad, as before. This is not fit for laden cattle. It is, in parts, like a flight of rugged steps, obstructed by loose boulders, &c.

7th. Rise to top of Afghool spur, 1 furlong, 157 yards; rise, 21 feet.

Endeavour will be made to avoid it by a new line.

Road very good, across a fine extensive plain, covered with abundance of grass for an army.

9th. Up the Afghool valley to the King's camp, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles
E.N.E. from the village of Antalo, 2 miles, 13 yards.

There is no firewood.

Halted here to reconnoitre the country around Antalo, before selecting the site for a permanent camp.

Sunday, 16th February.—Found the water of the King's camp insufficient for a large force, and

Halted at King's Camp, near Antalo.

not good. It is from two springs in the bed of a black soil water-course, choked with rank vegetation, and has a very unpleasant flavour. In other respects, the King's camp is a very eligible site, it being on the lower levels of a flat broad spur of Amba Antalo.

A sketch plan is under preparation, which will show Amba Antalo and its spurs from north by east to south, the village and the extensive plains of Belersat and Dumbassa, and the lines of drainage flowing towards the base of the Woggerat mountains on the south.

The Woggerat Mountains.

Amba Antalo.

The amba is capped by a scarp of red sandstone, accessible on the south side, at re-entering angle above the village, and at two other points, eastward and northward.

It is not commanded, though there is a high distant point to the westward, unconnected with the amba, that would afford the means of shelling the place.

It has no water on the summit, and none higher up than the level of the village, which I roughly estimated at about 800 or 1,000 feet below the summit. When opportunity offers, the place will be surveyed, and all these points ascertained with accuracy.

Since leaving Dolo, which is in Haramat, we have observed in Enderta little or no cultivation. Vast tracts of bare and uncultivated, but rich soil, blackened by recent fire, alternating with equally extensive tracts of dry grass still unconsumed, meet the eye in every direction, giving a desolate and barren appearance to the country, that it ought not to have. There is scarcely a bush to be seen, the practice of annually flaying these tracts having destroyed them all.

As a precautionary measure against fire, our camps must always be cleared of grass as soon as possible, both inside and to an extent of two or three hundred yards all round, but especially on the windward side, which at this season is always eastward.

There are two principal Governors of Antalo,—

1st. Gurrukidan, who governs one half of the district, now at Adowa with his Chief.

2d. Salafee Kassa, who governs the remaining half, who is also at Adowa.

Their deputies, Salafee Oonday and Kassa, were absent from Antalo when I arrived on the 15th, and I was informed that they, as well as most of the villagers, had gone to the market of Samrie, and would not return till to-day. We consequently got no supplies on the 15th, and this being Sunday, one of the Governors who returned last night, sent me a message to say that he would wait on me to-morrow (Monday, 17th).

Two or three influential persons, however, came to pay their respects, viz,—

Gurrin Kail, a merchant of Adda Bungo, about a mile distant, who is a contractor for supplying the King's troops when moving in these districts. He brought a small present of grain and milk, and I presented him, in return, with five dollars in the name of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. He promised to do his best to supply grain, but stated that the locusts had eaten nearly the whole of the small produce of these districts.

Two others, by name Buharay Mongoodda and Hufte, of villages in the Antalo districts close at hand, brought a bullock and some honey as presents. I presented them, in return, with five dollars each, and they promised to do their best to supply us.

Lieutenant Shewell paid a visit to Chelicut, about four miles distant, in the Eikhullut direction, but failed to induce the headman there to do anything. He said they cultivated very little, and appealed to the evidence afforded by the surrounding country of the truth of his assertion.

The Antalo visitors expressed themselves as being afraid of the troops, but I was at great pains to explain to them all that between sunrise and sunset they would have free access to our camp, and need never fear being molested, or their articles being taken away without payment on the spot.

I left camp early in the morning on a tour of reconnoissance to discover a site for a large camp, sufficiently supplied with water and forage, and at the same time well placed with reference to our march southward.

I was fortunate enough to find a suitable spot near the confluence of two streams of good running water, about five miles south-east of Antalo village, at the foot of the Woggerat chain, through which the direct route to Magdala, *via* the Bet Mara pass, to Ashangi, lies as detailed in my report dated 15th instant.

The occupation of this site will oblige an alteration in the line of route to be taken from Eikhullut, and enable me to trace out a line avoiding the precipitous and rugged fall No. 8 of this report. Thus the proper line, instead of going westward towards Antalo, will be continued to the southward down the slopes of the eastern side of the Afghool valley.

This, it will be seen from the plan, is the proper direction. Antalo village being too far to the westward and not provided with a sufficient water supply for a large force, in addition to that required by the villagers and their cattle, &c.

Pending this alteration and the other preparations necessary for the reception of the troops, I wrote to General Collings to-day, suggesting that it would be desirable for him to halt at Dolo for

a day or two, where he would be amply supplied; and that on Monday I would trace out the work for the Pioneer detachment, and be ready for his reception by Wednesday, 19th instant.

A servant of the Woggerat Chief, mentioned in my report of the 15th instant, who brought the presents for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, having applied to me for permission to return to his master, who resides at Addikulkul in the Woggerat hills, about 20 miles from this, I gave him a note acknowledging the receipt of his letter, which I stated had been forwarded to His Excellency, as desired. I added, that if he would find it convenient to come and visit me for the purpose of discussing matters connected with our line of route and supplies, I should be most happy to see him.

Monday, 17th February—4 a.m. Having to proceed on the survey duty above referred to at daylight this morning, I leave further proceedings at Antalo for the next report.

Halted near Antalo.

Traced out a line from the head of the Afghool spur (No. 8 of last report), avoiding the steep descent down it into the Afghool valley. The distance from Eikhullut to Booyah, the name of the tract on which our camp will be pitched, is 12 miles as detailed in the margin.

Halted at the King's camp near Antalo.

	M.	F.	Yds.
From Eikhullut to cross roads -	-	0	5 20
To top of Zigzag Area pass -	-	0	5 96
Across to foot of Ajuraro hill -	-	0	3 33
To top of ditto -	-	0	4 155
Rise to top of next spur -	-	0	6 125
Across stony plateau and fall into another valley -	-	0	2 217
To top of Afghool spur, <i>new line</i> -	-	0	1 157
Descent -	-	0	3 195
Top of second low spur -	-	0	2 0
Thence to camp Booyah -	-	7	5 185
	12	0	197

* Width about two furlongs each.

† The Deputy Governor of Antalo.

and, after explaining that we were about to establish a standing camp at Booyah, on account of the abundant supply of water and forage at that place, expressed the hope that we should have his aid and influence in supplying our camp market with such provisions as the country affords. He intimated his willingness to do everything he could, and said, that as soon as the villagers of the neighbourhood ascertained that such a market existed, they would bring to it what they had.

Some other leading natives of the neighbourhood, who had visited me yesterday, came again to-day, bringing others with them, and purchases of grain, cattle, goats, &c. commenced.

I observed that there was scarcely any ground brought under cultivation, either in the Antalo district or at Chelicut; and the reply was that these plains are subject to Amba Galla raids, and consequently, that, excepting in the immediate vicinity of the villages, no land is cultivated.

This is the more to be regretted, as the soil is naturally very fertile, and would yield as fine crops as any in the world.

Their practice of annually burning immense tracts of grass, has effectively denuded the country of trees, shrubs, &c., and it will consequently be difficult to supply ourselves with firewood at this post.

General Merewether, Mr. Markham, and M. Munzinger arrived in camp this evening.

Move to site for standing camp at Booyah, near Antalo.

Booyah, latitude, 13° 15' 54" (Mr. Markham). Height above the sea, 6,142 feet (Mr. Markham).

Tuesday, 18th February.—Moved to the site for the standing camp at Booyah, near Antalo.

It is situated on a well elevated open spur from the Afghool range, which, running from north to south, terminates near the foot of the Woggerat chain, about 5½ miles south-east of Antalo.

The water supply is abundant and good, the best for a large force obtainable within a circuit of many miles.

It is central to many villages. As a military position it has a fair command of the approaches to it, and the nature of the ground admits of the troops being disposed in the compact form of a parallelogram. Cavalry, and Artillery and European Infantry to the front, faces south and south-east. Native Infantry and Commissariat and Land Transport Corps, rear faces. Ordnance park and stores in the centre.

The soil is in parts black, mixed with gravel and loose stones of the primary formation. The natural drainage on all sides is very good.

Higher and better ground as regards soil and position, but with too scanty a water supply, is to be had about a mile beyond Booyah, on a corresponding spur southward, but it was not selected, pending His Excellency's arrival, on account of its being at too great a distance from the main water supply, and from its high ground being occupied by the ruins of a large village still partly inhabited.

Village of Bullat, belonging to Dedjung Yasoos, of Woggerat.

For a small force this may, perhaps, be thought a better position than Booyah for a permanent post.

The latter is not, however, inferior to Bullat in a sanitary point of view, it being swept by a strong east and north-east breeze across a higher open country, resembling the Deccan between Poona and Khandalla.

Sketch plans of the camp and neighbouring country are enclosed for His Excellency's information.

Wednesday, 19th February.—Engaged the whole day in tracing out the road to connect the

New line required down the Afghool spur.

The details of the line from Eikhullut to Huddamo are as follows:—

	M. F. Yds.
From Eikhullut river to cross roads	0 5 20
To the top of Arra Fetch	1 1 153 (not steep).
Plain on the range	1 2 182
Steep descent	0 0 105
Plain ground	0 6 50
Steep descent	0 3 130
Plain ground to Huddamo district	6 3 153
	10 7 133

would still recommend that the line I have traced down this pass, or a better if it is to be had, be cut when opportunity offers, as I do not consider that the path cleared by the pioneer force is sufficiently easy for camels, or even mules. Want of time alone induced me to consent to leave the road as it is. The force having still about seven miles of new line to clear from the foot of Afghool to the new site at Booyah, to which no direct road from the Afghool hills previously existed.

It will be seen from the accompanying plan that there is a direct line from Eikhullut to Hoodamo 11 miles, and to Musgee, on the Ashangi and Magdala line, about seven more. Total 18 miles.

There is not sufficient water at Hoodamo for a large force, and therefore, were the direct route adopted, this 18 miles would have to be covered in one march.

Want of water at Hoodamo for a large force. It would probably be an useful line in wet weather, and will be borne in mind.

See Sketch Map.

The advantage, however, of drawing supplies from the Antalo districts which the Booyah post affords, would in such a case be sacrificed.

There is reason to believe also, that the Haramat carriers would not be willing to convey our supplies direct to Musgee instead of Booyah, the former being in Woggerat, the latter in Enderta. Those who recently arrived here, even asked for compensation for coming beyond Antalo so far as Booyah, though the difference of distance between Eikhullut and Antalo village and Eikhullut and Booyah is only three miles, the latter being by far the easier line of the two.

The corrected distances from Addigerat to Booyah, near Antalo, are as follows:—

Addigerat to—	M. F. Yds.
1. Mai Wuhiz	13 6 155
2. Ad Abaga	15 1 106
3. Dungalo camp, north of gorge	8 5 42
4. Agoola River	9 4 10
5. Mai Mukdun	7 7 140
6. Dolo River	6 6 156
7. Eikhullut River	9 3 0
8. Booyah, 5½ miles south-east of Antalo	12 0 197
	83 3 146

Thursday, 20th February.—General Colling's column marched into Booyah this day.

Preparation for clearing roads through camp, removing the loose stones, removing vegetation from the stream which supplies camp, were made.

Halted at Booyah.

This elevated and extensive table land has, unfortunately, not sufficient water on it for a force. There is a small supply near the village of Gumbalo: it is midway between Bullat and the Musgee valley.

The Musgee pass from Chafeet table.

points of Bet Miriam and Mooga of the Woggerat chain, there is a considerable fall by a steep rugged road, which may be avoided by a very easy spur to the south of the ravine down which the road lies.

As the infantry detachment of the Pioneer force will finish the Afghool and Booyah line

Pioneer Infantry camp on Bullat.

to-morrow, I propose to encamp them a mile or so in advance of Booyah, on the Bullat spur, where they will obtain water from the springs which supply that village, and thus be prepared to clear onward without delay to the Musgee pass just referred to.

I propose myself to move the Pioneer force under my command to Musgee, on the 24th instant, and then await his Excellency's arrival at Booyah.

From Musgee I can survey to Messino, about eight miles, and thus gain ground, so as to be one day's march ahead of the advancing columns.

1. Plan of the encamping ground at Eikhullut.
2. Sketch plan of the country between Eikhullut, Antalo, and the foot of the Woggerat chain at Booyah, Bullat, and Huddamo.
3. Sketch plan of the country eastward of Antalo. Scale 2 square miles to one inch.

The enclosures with this Report are as per margin.

I have, &c.

R. PHAYRE, Colonel,
Quartermaster-General, Commanding Pioneer Force.

No. 37.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 23d March 1868).

Political Department.

No. 13. Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp Haikhullut,
Right Honourable Sir, 1st March 1868.

I have the honour, in continuation of my Despatch No. 11, dated the 21st ultimo, and of a subsequent telegram despatched from Camp Hawazain, to report that my interview with Prince Kassa took place under the following circumstances.

2. I was assured by Mr. Murcha Werke that the Prince was sincere in his wish to meet me. But delay was taking place in connexion with the matter, and I was uncertain how long I might be able to remain in this neighbourhood. My letter to the Prince of the 21st ultimo, of which a copy was submitted with my above mentioned Despatch, seems to have had the intended effect of hastening his movements.

3. On the 23d ultimo, the letter from Prince Kassa, of which a copy is appended marked A., was delivered in my camp at Adabagee, and the assurance conveyed in it of the Prince's approach was confirmed by the reports received from Captains Moore and Speedy, whom I had deputed to proceed towards Hawazain and gain information of the Prince's movements.

4. It having been ascertained that the Prince would reach Maiadeeab, the place selected for our meeting, on the 25th idem, I marched from that spot for Adabagee on the morning of that day, taking with me only a small force, composed as per margin.*

- * 4 Armstrong guns.
100 men of 3d Bengal Light Cavalry.
1 Company of 10th Bengal Native Infantry.
250 men of the 4th Foot.
In all about 450 men.

5. Shortly after our arrival on the ground, the Prince's red pavilion was pitched on an opposite height, and the arrival of the Prince himself was announced. The ridge was crowned with his army, numbering about 4,000 men. The main body of his forces, which are said to number from eight to ten thousand soldiers, having been left behind at Adwa. They were well armed with swords, guns, spears, and shields. Though their formation seemed irregular to the eyes of those accustomed only to European armies, yet there was nothing disorderly about them. On the contrary, all their movements indicated the perfect subjection of all to one authority, while the most complete silence was preserved in their camp, which was separated from our own by a small stream.

6. I had caused a tent to be pitched for the reception of the Prince, about 200 yards in front of my camp, and on hearing that the Prince had mounted his mule to proceed towards our position, I rode out to meet him on an elephant, arranging so as to arrive at the rivulet above mentioned just as the Prince was fording it on his mule. I then exchanged the elephant for a charger, the one intended to be afterwards presented to the Prince, and, riding up to His Highness, shook hands with him and accompanied him to the tent which had been made ready for him. A guard of honour was drawn up in the front of the tent, and a salute of nine guns was fired as we alighted and entered the tent, which was soon filled with the Chiefs of note, who had come in the Prince's train, together with the Officers of my own Staff. Among the former may be mentioned the Dajaz Gooksa, the elder brother of the Prince; the Dajaz Girra Inkaeel, Governor of Haramat; the Prince's Chamberlain, Bilata Kidaniey; Neoreed Gabroo Oovat, Governor of Axum; the Shoom Agame Yasso; and the Afa Negroos, or King's Herald.

7. After mutual compliments had been exchanged, and the community of faith which connects the Abyssinian with the British people had been referred to, I made a few general remarks on the gratification it afforded us to have this peaceful meeting with a Prince of Abyssinia, whose country it had become necessary to traverse, in pursuance of the commands of Her Majesty the Queen of England. The Prince replied, that friendship had existed between the Ruler of Tigreh and the British nation from the time of Mr. Salt's visit, more than fifty years ago; and that the desire which he had at heart, to meet me face to face and eye to eye, to be assured of my friendship, was now happily accomplished.

8. I then presented the Prince with the horse on which I had just ridden; also with an excellent rifle and a service of enamelled Bohemian glass. The public reception having thus terminated, only the Prince and a select few of his courtiers, together with my own personal Staff remained in the tent.

9. The conversation having turned on our mutual friendship, the Prince declared that he loved our friends and hated our enemies, and hoped that we would reciprocate that assurance. He referred very plainly to his rival, Wagshoom Gobazeh, the Prince of Lasta, who, he asserted, had no right to rule in Tigreh. I replied, that my Queen's commands would prevent me from interfering in the political differences of Abyssinia; that we had come for the sole purpose of releasing the persons detained in captivity by Theodore, whose violation of the laws of all nations, by the imprisonment of our envoy, we had been compelled to resent; that as soon as our object should be accomplished we should leave the country. We desired only to have a free passage through the country, and such supplies as it could furnish, for which we should pay; that the British nation had the greatest good will and sympathy for the Abyssinian people, as a Christian people, and desired not to interfere at all in their internal affairs; but would liberally acknowledge any assistance we might receive in furthering the object of the expedition. I said I should endeavour to make Gobazeh as much my friend as Prince Kassa himself had become, and that if, by persuasion, I could re-establish peace between them, I should spare no endeavour to do so; and that, as I said honestly what I could and what I could not do, His Highness might be assured that, though I could do no more, I would do no less than I promised. The Prince then said that they could take their own part against any enemies; and that all he wished for was my friendship, and that I would be to him as a father. He then expressed a wish solemnly to mark our friendship by shaking me by the hand. Hereupon we both rose and joined hands, the formal performance of this ceremony possessing, in the eyes of Abyssinians, a more than ordinary significance.

10. After we had resumed our seats, the Prince intimated to me that he had presented me with 3,000 madegahs of barley, which would be delivered at Addigrat and Antalo. The subject of supplies for our army having thus been introduced, I pointed out how desirable it is that the pressure of yielding us supplies should not fall exclusively on the people lying along our route, but should be shared by those inhabiting the remoter districts. With this view, I suggested that the Prince should appoint an influential nobleman of his Court to proceed to Senafé, Addigrat, and Antalo respectively, there to superintend the collection of supplies. I also observed, that such a representative of His Highness's Government at those stations would be able to render valuable service in inquiring into any accusations which might be made by my soldiers against the natives of the country. The Prince promised to give effect to my suggestions on this point.

11. The subject of the telegraph was then introduced. I begged the Prince to issue stringent orders for the protection of the wire in the different districts through which it passes. His Highness assured me that no efforts would be spared on his part to ensure the safety of the wire, but that it must not be wondered at should evil disposed persons injure it, if only in the hope of producing discord between our Government and His Highness.

12. When the Prince had been referring to his Lasta rival, he had taken the opportunity of expressing his readiness to fight him, if need be, and had said that he would shortly have occasion to lead a force to chastise the Dajaz Welda Yasoos, a rebel against his authority, who had established himself in a mountain stronghold, and whom Wagshoom Gobazeh was encouraging. I pointed out how essential peace is to the stability of a rule only recently consolidated; and at the same time took occasion to mention the case of Aito Barecao, the hereditary Governor of Agame, between whom, also, and the Prince a feud exists. I stated that this was not a matter in which I can interfere; but that in passing through Addigrat I had heard all people speak well of this Chief, and that, therefore, I would be glad if he were reconciled to his

Prince. His Highness replied, that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to pardon the rebel, notwithstanding that he has thrice forgiven him before, and he has as often lapsed into rebellion, and that at my request he would once more pardon him. He added, that the Chief now wishes to make certain terms with him which are not reasonable, and if he was forgiven, others would make similar demands. I replied that I could only venture to advise peace if it were possible for His Highness to grant it, but that of course he must be the best judge in such a case.

13. The elephant was then brought to the door of the tent, and the Prince's brother, the Dajaz Gooksa, with the Governor of Haramat, after a little hesitation, allowed themselves to be seated beside an Officer of my Staff in the howdah on the animal's back. They returned after a short ride, and their example was followed by numbers of their countrymen.

14. Photographs were then taken of the Prince and some of his courtiers, and the conversation becoming general, I suggested to His Highness that he should send one or two members of his Court to Zoulla, for the purpose of their being introduced to our establishments there. He replied, that he would do so as soon as the urgent business of his Government was over.

15. After much search, our camp was made to yield a bottle of port wine and one of brandy, and the liquor was served round to the Prince and his courtiers in the goblets which had lately been given to him.

16. I then retired, with my Staff, leaving the Prince to spend the remainder of the afternoon in private, in the tent which we had appropriated to his use.

17. There was something in the Prince's manner and bearing which, while serving to distinguish him from all his courtiers, tended also to impress me with a very favourable view of his natural disposition. He seems endowed with a share of common sense sufficient to make him a good ruler of his own province of Tigreh, and, above all, he appears really anxious to rule it well. I believe that he is really sincere in his professions of friendship and good will towards us; but this feeling, no doubt, rests on the belief in our power which the exhibition that has been made of our military strength has produced.

18. In the evening, I again met the Prince, and we attended together a parade of the troops, which were put through a few movements, greatly to the delight of His Highness, who evinced much interest in all that he saw, and dismounted from his mule to inspect the Armstrong guns. The surprise depicted on his features, as he examined the guns, was a sufficient index to his feelings, though he said little, and appears to have all the undemonstrativeness of manner which Oriental princes regard as an essential part of kingly dignity.

19. After the parade was over, His Highness invited us to inspect his camp and troops in return. As we approached the height where his army lay bivouacked, the soldiers rose from the ground, and, forming a column of march with the musicians playing in front, escorted our *cortège* to the Prince's tent. The soldiers were remarkably well armed, and their excellent order was even more noticeable now than it had been when we had looked at them only from a distance.

20. His Highness had prepared an entertainment for myself and the Officers accompanying me. Breads of different kinds were handed round, with copious supplies of a not very unpleasant liquor, made by fermentation from honey. Minstrels were then introduced, and singers, who sang their own rude compositions in praise of their guests.

21. Just before we took our departure, His Highness sent for his own war cloak, made of the mane of the lion, and armed with a breast-plate of silver. This he placed with his own hands upon me; and, one after the other, were given me his sword, and spear, and shield, and gauntlet, a cheer from the assembled British Officers attending each separate gift. His Highness begged me to keep, as a memento of his friendship, all that he had given; and when I took leave he mounted me on his own mule, with the request that his favourite should never be ridden by any one except myself.

22. The following morning, when I was expecting to receive a visit from the Prince's brother, I was agreeably surprised to see His Highness himself ride up to my tent. A private interview followed; and, as a sign of His Highness's desire to promote a cordial understanding between himself and us, his visiting me in this way, with comparatively little ceremony, probably had more significance even than all his friendly assurances of the previous day. On his seating himself in my tent, I naturally referred to the subject of the provisioning of our troops, and, pointing out to His

Highness that this was the direction in which more than any other his friendship should be shown, I named 2,000 madegahs* of wheat and barley as the quantity we would like to see delivered weekly at Addigrat and Antalo. His Highness promised that this would be done.

* The madegah is equal to about 20 lbs.

23. I had accidentally learned that it was His Highness's purpose to proceed against a refractory subject, and to lead a force against him by the same route as that which we are following. I pointed out to His Highness how inconvenient it would be for us that military operations, such as he contemplated, should be taking place in our rear. He acquiesced in this view, and replied that, in further proof of his friendship towards us, he would, for the present, abandon his design, and lead his army away in a different direction. I then intimated to His Highness that, if our troops should receive from him all the assistance which we expected of him, and which he had promised should be afforded them, then I would represent his friendship very favourably to Her Majesty the Queen of England before leaving Abyssinia, and that I felt sure Her Majesty would then acknowledge his friendship in the way most gratifying to him. The promise thus implied was not lost upon the Prince. The result will, I believe, prove this to be the case. No degree of friendship on his part, or anxiety to help us, can, it is true, serve to make barren districts yield corn, or bare mountains grass. But I am satisfied we have thoroughly enlisted Prince Kassa on our side. This, whatever its practical result may amount to, is obviously all that it was possible for us to do in the circumstances in which we are placed.

24. The time has now come when it is necessary for us to open similar communications with Wagshoom Gobazeh, the ruler of Lasta, as those which have progressed so favourably with the Prince of Tigreh. The receipt of a letter a few days ago from the former Prince (copy appended, marked "B.") furnished a suitable opportunity of informing him of our near approach. M. Munzinger, the Acting Consul at Massawa, in whose ability General Merewether, C.B., has the utmost confidence, has been deputed by me to proceed to Wagshoom Gobazeh's camp, bearing a letter, of which a copy is attached, marked "C." The tenor of all the intercourse we have hitherto had with this Prince leads us to anticipate that he will be only too ready to receive us as friends, and render us all the assistance in his power.

25. Extracts of letters received a few days ago from Magdala, together with a *précis* of their contents, are appended, marked "D."

26. To-morrow's march will, I hope, place my head quarters a few miles on the Magdala side of Antalo.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure A.

Copy of translation of Letter from DAJASMAJ KASSA, Chief of the Governors of Ethiopia to Sir R. NAPIER (received 23d February 1868).

How do you pass the time? Are you well? Your letters reached me, one yesterday, and one to-day, and pleased me greatly. I am coming. I am on the march, for I am very anxious to see you. I am proceeding to your camp. I will reach Howazain on Monday, and your camp on Tuesday. May the Almighty guard you till we meet, for I have much to say.

I am thankful that all you have done affords me much gratification.

Enclosure B.

Copy of translation of Letter from Dejasmaj Gobazie to the Chief of the British Army, &c.

I love you, and I will publish a proclamation. I am leaving Dejaz Meshasha at Sokota to receive you.

I am going to join the army of Begmeder and Belessa (to mine); but I will soon return towards you. I have told Dejas Welda Jasus and Dejas Gebray (Bora) to receive you and to prepare the road.

The telescope you sent me has been robbed by the servant of Kassa.
(No date. The letter was written on the 11th February, at Ayna.)

WAGSHOOM GOBAZIE.

Enclosure C.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir R. Napier, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in Abyssinia, to His Highness Wagshoom Gobaze, Prince of Lasta.

Camp Haikhelat, 1st March 1868.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God.

Are you well? Thank God, we are very well.

We were much gratified by your letter of the 11th February, and thank you much for it.

Its contents are as we expected from your friendship and known wisdom.

We are coming by the way of Ashangee, and we hope soon to meet you.

We are sending to you M. Munzinger, the Consul at Massowa, and would introduce him to you, asking your reception of him as a trusted messenger from us. He will inform you on all points, and we beg you to do the same with him.

We hope to hear constantly from you, of your welfare and what is going on near you.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure D.

Précis of latest Intelligence from interior of Abyssinia, namely, to 9th February 1868 from Magdala, and to 5th February 1868 from the camp of Theodorus.

All was well with the prisoners, who were, however, being closely watched by the King's guards. The Emperor had got across the greater part of the Jeddah valley, and Dalanta was occupied by his troops. He has not yet given any clue to what is passing in his mind concerning the British army now advancing against him; and it is not even known to what extent he has been informed of our movements. According to one report, the subject is generally talked of by the King's officers. Another report says that the coming of our army is still not generally known. It appears, however, from various indications that the King's attention has been excited by rumours of our approach, and that he is considering some line of policy, though it is not easy to predict what that may eventually prove to be. His demeanour towards the Europeans in his power is said to have become more considerate than it formerly was.

It was thought even a month longer would be required to make the road passable for his troops and guns as far as Dalanta.

W. TWEEDIE, Lieutenant,
Political Secretary.

Enclosure E.

Extracts of Letters received in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's camp, Dhongola, Abyssinia, on the 26th February 1868, from Magdala.

Note.—Extracts are sent, instead of copies *in extenso* as heretofore, because the letters are filled with references to accounts and other domestic matters of no interest. Every portion of importance appears in the extracts.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER, dated Magdala, 8th February 1868.

The 200 men of the garrison are absorbed in the glorious task of watching, bullying, if possible, black and white prisoners. Gallant Colonels, nay, Generals of late, when by long and low worship they have failed to induce white donkeys to succumb to their eloquence, and drop a dollar or so into their crafty paws, proceeded to the more direct means of satisfying their individual wants, by taking by mistake my flannel shirt, and, would you believe it, even my dog-collar; never mind the ways and means, be it cunning, be it adoration, as long as the pleasing things fall into the hands of our kind and generous jailors. * * * According to the best authority, we will in a few weeks, if not before, be invited to reside near His Majesty, as soon as he will have pitched his camp on the plain of Dalanta. That province is in fact a large Amba. To the north it is separated from Wadela by the steep banks of the Jedda, to the south, the * * * separates it from Warree, the district in which Magdala arises. To the west, a deep ravine forms the boundary between it and Daoont, and from Godjam east of it, and a smaller ravine to the above-mentioned ones have to be crossed. From Wadela, Daoont, and Warree the roads are bad, in many places quite impracticable for large bodies. Should Bob be still in Dalanta on your arrival, these three districts, or rather the passes into them, ought to be guarded by small bodies of cavalry, so as to cut off any retreat or running away on the part of our friend and the main body advanced through Godjam. From this district not only you will find the best roads, but you can pass almost directly to Wadela, Warree, or Dalanta, as you like. This would be only in case you arrive too late to cut him off from here.

BLANC.

Third Enclosure, viz., from same to same, 5th February 1868.

* * * Aboona (the Emperor's Arab scribe) told me that he had heard the news that an English army is coming up, weeks ago, on the market here, and that the King's officers talk frequently amongst themselves of it, and that the King knows it also. It seems that the news from the east are more known than we expect.

Fourth Enclosure, viz., from Mr. FLAD to Colonel MEREWETHER, C.B.

Dear Sir,

Dalanta, 3d February 1868.

Many thanks for your two kind and interesting letters which reached me about a month ago. We rejoice at the news, and long for the day when we shall, by the grace of God, meet. * * * You will be glad to hear that about six weeks ago your telescope has been praised by His Majesty as the best he ever saw. It is not known whether His Majesty received the letter you spoke of or not. From his behaviour towards the Europeans here, Mr. Rassam, &c., it might seem that he has received it, though he never says a word about it. Even your coming, and having reached the centre of Tigré or by this time Lasta, is not yet known in the royal camp, at least there is no rumour about it. The other day, the Arabian scribe of His Majesty came to visit me. He asked me whether I had no news from the coast; "I heard," he said, "that an English army reached Aden, and was on its way hither, and the report was that they had an immense quantity of waggons, guns, and luggage, and that Dajaz Kassa in Tigré wished to give them cows, bread, corn, &c., but they refused to receive anything, saying, 'We are provided with everything for seven years, and are for- bidden by our Queen to take even our (?) bread from the country;' and that the Lasta rebel Gobazeh says that he would accompany the English hither and fight the King." I said, in reply, that though I had no communications with the coast, I have no doubt that the report of an English army coming up here was true, as already, before my departure from Massowah last year, preparations had been made that in case the King would not give up the English prisoners till September an army would be sent in October. Regarding the rebel in Lasta, I said that I knew the English Government would not suffer him to come with them, as they have neither connexion nor business with rebels; what they want from them would only be a road for them through their country. Their business would be with His Majesty, which they would finish themselves without the aid of any rebels. Again, that England acknowledges only the King as Emperor of Abyssinia, and all the rest as rivals and rebels of him; and that if the King would be wise he still would make his fortune out of the matter. "How?" asked he. "If he will ask for peace and reconciliation, instead of making an attempt to fight, where, if he does, he certainly will get the shorter, and, above all, if he will treat Mr. Rassam and all the Europeans here kindly; but in case he would in a rage kill or torture Mr. Rassam or any of the Europeans there would be no hope for any good for him be left." "But," said he, "is there really any hope that they will reconcile themselves with the King? Has he not gone too far?" "It would have been better for him if he had made peace last year, as I advised him; but still, I firmly believe, if the King will act under the above conditions, the English will forgive and settle the whole business fairly, even to the King's advantage. The English are not coming to take his country out of his hands. But they want their countrymen, and they would make arrangements with him that in future every European would have protection in his country, and would come and go freely, as you know yourself best is the case in Egypt." I am not sure whether this man has been sent to me by His Majesty or made inquiry for himself. To-day His Majesty said to Mr. Waldemir and Mr. Mayer,—"Mr. Rassam is my friend, and I love him, and as soon as we reach the top of the plain of Dalanta I shall bring him in our camp. Against Captain Cameron I have nothing, but that he brought me no answer back to the letter that I had given to him; instead of getting an answer for me from his Queen he was travelling in the Arab country; and why did Her Majesty not answer my letter, which had been written most humbly as King, only for friendship? If I should have asked her to marry me, she would have been right to give me no answer, but in no other way. And that letter gave the cause to my quarrelling with the Consul, and of everything up to now. Mrs. Flad," he said, "had written in her letter that if the English and French would come, I would fight them; but I had not said so; I said if the English and French should come to my country I should not fear; and now I don't fear."

On the whole, he has behaved much more considerate towards all the Europeans than some months ago, when he nearly every month roared against me about the English affair. It would appear, if we may hope so, that he cherishes thoughts of reconciliation. It may take us three weeks, or even a month, more until we have finished the road up to Dalanta. There, it seems, he wishes to await you, and I hope and pray that until then you will not be far. As matters have come so far, I am now convinced that I was right last winter in Debra Tabor rather to submit to slavery than to chains, because thus I was enabled to speak a word in season as well to the Europeans here as to the Emperor and his people, which opportunity would have been entirely cut off had I been a prisoner, though now and then I should have preferred to be a prisoner rather than work like the meanest slave. And I am determined that in case the King should consult us, or any opportunity would offer itself, I should frankly state that it would be to his advantage if he treat Mr. Rassam, &c., kindly, and that the slightest insult committed to any one of the prisoners would prove fatal to him. We are suffering from heat and fever. * *

T. M. FLAD.

Mr. RASSAM to Colonel MEREWETHER, dated Magdala, 9th February 1868.

* * The Emperor has gone over the greater part of the Jeddah valley, and he has sent to say, that as soon as he reaches Dalanta he will see me. Whether he will leave his cannons there, and come to see me here, or send for me to Dalanta it is not yet known. Thank God, both my fellow prisoners, who are now twelve, and myself are well.

H. RASSAM.

The same to same, dated Magdala, 9th February 1868.

* * * I have nothing in particular to communicate by this opportunity, because the letters which I enclose to you herewith will give you all the news. On the 3d instant, I received the following royal message :—"How are you? How are you my brother? Thank God, I am well. I must apologize to you for not having written to you when I sent you the five Europeans. I have been lately hard at work in making a good road for the gun carriages, and I hope that you will accept this as a valid excuse for my not writing to you to-day. I hope that it will not be long now before I ascend to Dalanta, when I trust to have the pleasure of meeting you, a joy which has been so long deferred. Ask all your brothers how they are for me." It is generally believed now, that as soon as His Majesty reaches Dalanta he will send for me, and of course, if I am to be kept in the royal camp, Blanc and Prideaux will certainly be my companions, and the rest of the prisoners will at last follow. Dalanta is now occupied by the royal troops. Please do not send us any more letters or papers, for just now we must be very cautious.

First Enclosure to above, viz., Letter from Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

King's Camp, 28th January 1868.

* * * On Saturday, His Majesty told us that he had "sent Messrs. Staiger and Co. to the fortress, and given orders that they should be given over to Mr. Rassam, and my business with that gentleman I told some time ago to Mr. Waldemir." On asking Mr. Waldemir what the King told him about his business with you, he replied that, when he received your letter in Bait Hor, he said to him, "Mr. Rassam was my best friend before I sent him to Magdala, and though I put him in chains, he is still my friend, and for this reason I esteem and love him, and shall do him good as long as I live, though they who are above him in England laugh at me, and mock my poverty; but Messrs. Stern, Cameron, and Rosenthal I can't esteem more than my own Abyssinians. Mr. Morritz I kept here, and I shall open him. Mr. Waldemir and — are my early true friends, they came far to work for me; the rest I had to force to get into the work, and we are friends by force. Mr. Flad had been sent to England, but had I not kept here his wife and children, I know he would never have come back. But don't fear; I know you did risk your life to come back, but I esteem it, and I tell you I have got some more business for you, and I hope we shall do some important business together, of which I can't tell you now."

The day after this had taken place, I had a visit from a spy of the King. From his questions, I immediately knew that he was sent by the King. He asked, "How often have you seen the Queen? Has she given you anything to eat? Have the workmen and articles been sent before or after you to Massawa? Are the workmen and the things still at Massawa? Has the letter of the Queen been a good one or a bad one? Would it not have been better if the King had made peace with England? Is the Queen very old? And her son, the future King of England, is he the 'hailangia' (strong-headed?)" After I had given him the proper answers, which I hope have been told him without any alterations, he said the King's spy returned yesterday from Lasta, and it seems we shall have some fighting in Dalanta, as the Lasta rebel made a proclamation that he will fight with the King in Dalanta.

I don't believe that the rebel of Lasta will come to Dalanta, but it seems to me that His Majesty must have got some news from the movements of our friends; and I hope that by this time they will be near. Still it is very strange that, amongst the peasants and soldiers, nothing yet is heard. I fear the day when it shall be known to the soldiers. The effect it will have will be double. In case His Majesty should speak of fighting, many more will run away, and the remainder will get more furious in their hatred against the Europeans, and a crisis will come for all of us. I fear that His Majesty has sent to Magdala to bring bullets for his guns; from this it might seem as if he had intentions to fight. There is no doubt that in the first time when it will be known he will boast and pretend to fight, but, as all tyrants, he is a great coward in the bottom of his heart; most likely he will await them in Dalanta. I don't think that he will take his place on the mountain, but am almost sure that, when they approach nearer, you will be sent for, and all the Europeans will be watched near him night and day. I rejoice that this country, with its unhappy and demoralized people, will in future be opened to true Christianization and civilization, even if I have to fall as a sacrifice.

Second Enclosure, viz., from same to same, 5th February 1868.

* * * The mortars and guns have been brought up half the way from Jeddah to the first plateau of Dalanta. It is an immense and hard work to bring the things up. He has indeed an iron perseverance.

No. 38.

From Sir ROBERT NAPIER, to the Secretary of State for India in Council (received 30th March).

No. 34 of 1868.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp near Antalo,
8th March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to enclose you a return showing the distribution which I propose to make of the troops under my command in the advance towards the south.

I have the honour also to enclose a statement of the number of baggage animals required for the force which is to move beyond Antalo, with a detail of the different articles of transport.

The road immediately south of this place is reported to be very difficult; although working parties have been engaged upon it for the last four days, a distance of not more than 20 miles from here is alone practicable for laden baggage animals, and elephants.

This is due to the fact that the route leads through the rugged and confused mountains of Waggerat, and the passes which traverse these are narrow, difficult, and generally covered with jungle.

I am sparing no means to push forward the improvement of the road, and am also causing Officers to carefully reconnoitre every other route which may lead through the Waggerat mountains in the direction of Magdala.

I had intended to move by Socota, but shall take the more eastern line by Lake Ashanghi, which I have reason to believe offers fewer obstacles than the former route.

I am also informed that, on passing through the Waggerat where supplies are very scarce, particularly forage, I shall open out into the district of Ashanghi, which is described as capable of feeding the troops.

Since the landing of the expedition on the coast, Antalo has been the only place where food for our small columns, rarely amounting to 800 men, has been obtained in sufficient quantities to relieve the heavy pressure on the transport animals and the depôts of supply at the sea base.

At Antalo, owing to the arrangements of Prince Kassa, we have been able not only to feed the troops, but also to send onwards flour in some quantities to assist us through the sterile district of Waggerat.

Should no extraordinary difficulties occur, I may hope to be at Magdala by the end of the month.

I have, &c.,
R. NAPIER.

Enclosure in No. 38.

No. 650 of 1868.

The subjoined draft General Order is forwarded to the Deputy Adjutant-General for publication.

Draft G. O. C.

The following distribution of the troops comprising the Abyssinian Force is ordered:—

Detailed instructions regarding the several movements to carry out this distribution will be communicated to General Officers by the Assistant Quartermaster-General at Army Head Quarters.

1st Division.

All troops from Antalo to the front will complete the 1st Division.

Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B., to command.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. A. Wood, Assistant Adjutant-General.
Major R. Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster-General.
Lieutenant Saunders, A. D. C.

Pioneer Force.

To march two days in advance of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division.

Brigadier-General Field, 10th Regiment, N.I., to command.
 Captain Durand, Brigade Major.
 Captain Macgregor, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.
 Lieutenant Shewell, Commissariat Officer.
 Captain Goodfellow, Field Engineer.

Colonel Phayre, Deputy Quartermaster-General, will accompany the Pioneer Force, and survey the road and country in its immediate neighbourhood.

Troops.

40 sabres, 3d Light Cavalry.
 40 sabres, 3d Regiment Sind Horse.
 3d and 4th Companies, Bombay Sappers and Miners.
 2 Companies, 33d Regiment.
 1 Company, 23d Regiment, Punjaub Pioneers.

1st Brigade, 1st Division.

Brigadier-General Schneider to command.
 Captain Beville, Brigade Major.
 Captain Hogg, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.
 Major Mignon, Commissariat Officer.

Troops.

Head Quarters Wing, 3d Dragoon Guards.
 3d Regiment, Light Cavalry.
 3d Regiment, Sind Horse.
 G. Battery, 14th Brigade, R.A., 4 guns.
 A. Battery, 21st Brigade, R.A.
 4th "King's Own," Royal Regiment.
 Head Quarters and 8 Companies, 33d Regiment.
 Head Quarters, 10th Company, Royal Engineers.
 Head Quarters and 2 Companies, 27th Regiment, N.I., Beloochees.
 Head Quarter Wing, 10th Regiment, N.I.

2d Brigade, 1st Division.

Brigadier-General Wilby to command.
 Captain Hicks, Brigade Major.
 Captain Fawcett, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.
 Major Bardin, Commissariat Officer.

Troops.

Head Quarter Wing, 12th Bengal Cavalry.
 B. Battery, 21st Brigade, R.A.
 Two 8-inch mortars with Detachment, 5-25, R.A.
 Rocket Battery, Naval Brigade.
 H. Company, Madras Sappers and Miners.
 Head Quarters and 7 Companies, 23d Regiment, Punjaub Pioneers.
 Wing, 27th Regiment, N.I., Beloochees.

2d Division.

Major-General G. Malcolm, C.B., commanding.
 Major G. Bray, Assistant Adjutant-General.
 Captain Watts, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.
 Major Leven, Assistant Commissary-General.
 Lieutenant Heath, A. D. C.

All troops at and from Senafé to Antalo will compose the 2d Division.

Antalo Garrison.

Brigadier-General Collings to command.
 Major Quin, Brigade Major.
 Captain James, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.
 Lieutenant Hone, Commissariat Officer.

Troops.

Wing, 12th Bengal Cavalry.
 5-25, Royal Artillery.
 H. Company, Madras Sappers and Miners.
 45th Foot.
 3d Regiment, N.I.
 Detachment, 10th Regiment N.I.

Addigerat Garrison.

Major Fairbrother to command.

Troops.

Squadron, 10th Bengal Cavalry.
 2 guns G.-14, Royal Artillery.
 2d Company, Bombay Sappers and Miners.
 Wing, 25th Regiment, N.I.

Senafé Garrison.

Lieutenant-Colonel Little, 25th N.I., to command.
 Lieutenant Becke, 21st N.I., Staff Officer.
 Captain Edwardes, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.
 Commissariat Officer, Major Thacker.

Troops.

1 Squadron, 10th Bengal Cavalry.
 1st Company, Native Artillery.
 3 Companies, 21st Punjaub N.I.
 Wing, 10th Regiment, N.I.
 1 Company, Marine Battalion.
 Head Quarter Wing, 25th Regiment, N.I.

Depôts of all Regiments in advance.

26th Cameronians (on arrival).

Zoolla Command.

To be composed of all troops at Zoolla and stations in the passes :—

Brigadier-General Stewart to command.
 Brigade Major, Captain Fellowes.
 Assistant Quartermaster-General, Major Roberts.
 Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Major Gammell.
 Commissariat Officer, Captain Hawkes.

Troops.

1 Squadron, 10th Bengal Cavalry.
 G. Company, Madras Sappers.
 1st Company, Bombay Sappers and Miners.
 2d Regiment, N.I., Grenadiers.
 18th Regiment, N.I.
 Head Quarters and 5 Companies, 21st Punjaub Pioneers.
 8th Bombay N.I. (on arrival).
 5th Bombay N.I. (on arrival).

To garrison stations in the pass.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Mules required to move the Advance Division, Abyssinian Field Force, for 30 days.

Troops.	European.	Native Troops.	Horses.	Regimental Mules.	Elephants.	Followers.	Mules.					Mulleeters.	Total Followers.	Total Mules.
							For Baggage.	For Tents.	For Ammunition.	For Treasure.	For Rations.			
3d Dragoon Guards.	220	—	230	—	—	109	66	17	—	—	117	67	176	200
3d Light Cavalry	10	400	420	—	—	160	103	20	—	—	189	104	204	312
3d Sind Horse	10	400	420	—	—	160	103	20	—	—	189	104	204	312
G.-14, Royal Artillery	88	—	85	—	20	89	24	6	—	—	79	37	126	109
A.-21 " "	120	—	8	111	—	53	33	9	—	—	59	34	87	212
B. 21 " "	120	—	8	111	—	53	33	9	—	—	59	34	87	212
Naval Brigade	107	—	8	25	—	20	30	8	—	—	44	27	47	107
Land Transport Corps	20	—	14	225	—	390	7	5	—	—	160	132	522	397
8-inch mortars	45	—	2	—	13	40	14	2	—	—	29	15	55	45
10th Company, Royal Engineers	30	—	2	26	—	10	10	2	—	—	16	18	28	54
4th King's Own Regiment	600	—	5	—	—	132	147	34	—	—	266	149	281	447
33d Regiment	800	—	5	—	—	132	180	41	—	—	330	184	316	551
10th Native Infantry	5	220	8	—	—	40	64	8	—	—	97	56	96	169
Sappers and Miners	7	232	5	20	—	16	64	8	—	—	92	61	77	184
23d Pioneers	10	690	10	—	—	55	145	32	—	—	270	149	200	447
27th Beloochees	10	640	10	—	—	55	137	30	—	—	252	140	197	419
Commissariat	20	—	15	—	—	124	28	20	—	—	51	33	157	99
Treasure	3	—	3	—	—	7	3	2	—	100	12	39	46	117
Staff	36	—	88	—	—	120	100	30	—	—	65	65	185	195
Hospital	10	—	10	—	—	200	70	8	—	—	82	53	253	160
Reserve Ammunition	1	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	950	—	104	352	356	1,056
Total	2,272	2,582	1,356	518	33	1,969	1,362	312	950	100	2,562	1,853	3,700	5,804

The following columns will require carriage as stated below, including reserve ammunition and 30 days' rations:—

3d Cavalry	-	-	-	-	312
Sind Horse	-	-	-	-	312
G.-14, R.A.	-	-	-	-	109
A.-21, R.A.	-	-	-	-	212
10th Company Royal Engineers	-	-	-	-	54
2 Companies, Sappers and Miners	-	-	-	-	184
" Pioneers	-	-	-	-	184
4th Foot	-	-	-	-	447
33d Foot	-	-	-	-	551
Wing, 10th N. I.	-	-	-	-	169
2 Companies, 27th N. I.	-	-	-	-	184
Staff	-	-	-	-	130
Commissariat	-	-	-	-	60
Reserve Ammunition	-	-	-	-	800
Hospital	-	-	-	-	100
Land Transport Corps	-	-	-	-	200
Treasure	-	-	-	-	67
Total	-	-	-	-	4,075

2d Brigade.

3d Dragoon Guards	-	-	-	-	200
B.-21, R. A.	-	-	-	-	212
8-inch mortars	-	-	-	-	45
Naval Brigade	-	-	-	-	107
6 Companies, 23d Pioneers	-	-	-	-	263
6 Companies Beloochees	-	-	-	-	225
Staff	-	-	-	-	65
Treasure	-	-	-	-	50
Commissariat	-	-	-	-	39
Hospital	-	-	-	-	60
Reserve Ammunition	-	-	-	-	256
Land Transport Corps	-	-	-	-	197

Total - 1,729

The mules on the highlands are,—

514 between Addigerat and Senafé.
 *455 expected at Antalo to move on.
 *1194 at Antalo.
 *652 with Pioneer force.
 1,122 at Addigerat.
 404 *en route* to Addigerat from Antalo.
 *44 at Antalo, belonging to 23d Pioneers.
 1,071 sick.

Total - - 5,456 mules on the highlands.

* Available at or near Antalo 2345.

If country carriage is available, the whole force in advance of Antalo will require 3,242 mules to move it, with reserve ammunitions, treasures, &c.

T. J. HOLLAND, Captain,
 Assistant Quartermaster-General.

No. 39.

SIR R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 30th March).
 Political.

No. 14. Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
 Right Honourable Sir, Camp near Antalo, 8th March 1868.

I have the honour, in continuation of my Despatch, No. 13, dated Camp Haikhillut, the 1st instant, to report, for your information, that I encamped here on the 2d idem, and have since halted while the road towards Ashangee is being made practicable for the passage of mules carrying supplies.

2. In marching from our last encampment to this place, I diverged a little from the direct route, in order to visit the church of the Holy Trinity, which is situated in the town of Chillikut, about three miles to the south-east of Haikhillut. Chillikut is of interest as having been the favourite residence of Ras Walda Selassie. The church is of the ordinary circular form, but the paintings on its walls are obviously after an European model, and one of them represents a female figure wearing a head-dress in the style of Catherine of Arragon. The priests received us, as usual, with extreme courtesy, and showed us a golden chalice engraved with the royal arms of England, but without date or other inscription from which its history could be learned; two crowns of silver-gilt, and of handsome workmanship; a copy of the four Gospels bound in silver, with figures of our Saviour, the Virgin, and the Trinity engraved upon it in relief; and two silver crosses, measuring upwards of a foot in diameter. The usual formula of excommunication was engraved upon the crosses against any one who should sell or in any way alienate them. It was said that they were the work of an Italian who visited this country between 60 and 70 years ago. Suitable presents were made by me to the church itself, to its chief priest, and to the poor of the neighbourhood.

3. The site of our present encampment is just within the southern boundary line of the province of Tigre. The Governor of Antalo, by name Belatee Gabria Keedan, holds his office under Prince Kassa.

4. The adjoining district of Wodjerat is governed by its own Chief, named Waldee Yasoos, who was formerly the tributary of Prince Kassa, but has lately transferred his allegiance to Wagshoom Gobazeh. The younger brother of this Chief, by name Salawa Baria Georgis, presented himself to General Merewether, C.B., in order to pay his respects, both in his own and his elder brother's name, a few days ago at this place. He professed every desire to assist our troops in their passage through the country.*

* A rumour had gone abroad that Prince Kassa was accompanying our army with a body of troops of his own, in order to punish Waldee Yasoos, and bring him back to his allegiance. This had, no doubt, reached the ears of Waldee Yasoos himself, and probably is the explanation of the alacrity with which he sent his brother to propitiate us. The rumour was so far founded in truth, as Prince Kassa had really meditated such a proceeding, but I had induced him to abandon the idea for the present, on account of the embarrassment such a movement on his part might have occasioned to us.

5. The day after I had encamped at this place, I received a visit from Ashooka, the Chief of a portion of the Azuba Gallas. The residence of this Chief is at Baboo Taiah, only four days distant from Antalo. The town is a large one, and stands in a populous district, which is said to yield mules and supplies in abundance. It is only about 12 miles off from our fifth halting place from this, on the way to Ashangee. The Azuba Gallas are Muhammadans, and are constantly in a state of feud with the surrounding Abyssinians. The opportunity was taken of Ashooka's visit, in order to

explain to him the objects with which the British Army had entered Abyssinia. He was presented with a sword and a dress, and returned the same day to his home, full of friendly assurances and promises of assistance in obtaining supplies. I have to-day despatched Captain Moore and Meer Akbar Alee, of the Intelligence Department, to join Major Grant, C.B., who proceeded, a few days ago, in advance towards Ashangee, and have instructed them to open friendly communications, as far as possible, with the Azuba Gallas occupying the districts near our route. This, it is to be hoped, will pave the way for our entering into similar relationship with the Wollo Galla tribes, whose country is situated further on.

6. With reference to the reports received within the last few days from Major Grant, C.B., copies of which are herewith submitted for your information, Appendix A., I would remark that the opening up of the road towards Ashangee, parts of which are reported to be more difficult than any yet encountered, and almost impracticable for cavalry, is of more than ordinary importance, from the unsettled character of the mixed races which occupy this part of the country, and the several Chiefs who are at feud with one another, the powerful Chief Waldee Yasoos oscillating in allegiance between Kassa and Gobazeh. I expect, in the course of a day or two, to hear that the road between this and Ashangee has been made passable for laden mules, and the force will then be moved direct to the latter station, a small detachment being left at Antalo, pending the arrival of its allotted garrison recently put *en route* from Zoulla.

7. The return of grain and flour purchases made at this place by the Commissariat Officers, since the 1st instant, which I have the honour to attach for your information, Appendix B, shows that a quantity considerably in excess of what was to have been anticipated has been procured. This favourable result has caused so large a drain upon the camp cash-chest, that it becomes necessary to be certain of a further supply of money being within reach before advancing the force. Until the way shall have been opened for our advancing direct to Ashangee, it is better to halt here, where provisions are abundant, than to be detained at any intermediate halting place, where neither grain, or grass is procurable in sufficient quantity.

8. The latest reliable intelligence from Magdalla is contained in the letters from Mr. Rassam, of which copies are herewith submitted, Appendix C.

9. Wagshoom Gobazeh is said to be now at Ainah, which is about 20 miles to the north-east of his former position at Laleebala. He has reported to have lately visited the Province of Begemeder, and gained there an accession to his forces. I expect soon to hear of his having been joined by M. Munzinger, the envoy despatched to his camp on the part of our army, as I had the honour of reporting to you in my last despatch. A report has been received from M. Munzinger of his arrival, near Ashangee on the 5th instant. He mentions his having everywhere met with civility from the Chiefs and people of the districts through which he passed.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure A.

Reports from Major GRANT, C.B.

Sir,

Camp Mai Muzghee,
4th March 1868.

I have the honour to report my arrival here at 1 p.m., distance, eight or nine miles of good road for mules and elephants, but not for artillery. Water abundant, and flowing four hundred yards from camp. Camp flat and roomy, but commanded from above.

Commissariat purchases since my arrival :—

	Dollars.
Barley and other grains, 675 lbs.	46
Leather bags 20	12
Ghee -	2
Grass, 3,800 lbs.	19
Flour	2
Bullocks, one	6
	87

The Scinde Horse, &c., have been supplied from the above, but I have told an influential priest that we wish to purchase largely, and that a party is stationed here for this purpose. I observed large herds of fine cattle on the route and about this ground.

A fire has been blazing on a height to the S.S.E. of this; our route to Atila passes below this height, and the above priest assures me that the fire is accidental. He informs me that a rebel with a few followers (20 or 30) live about the rocks near the Amba or fort of Arrara (two days' march from this) and on our route, but that no one wishes to come in contact with the English, whose

name preceded from them Zoulla. He is to explain to his friends the views promulgated in the proclamation, and will also tell them that we wish our stores carried from Atila to Ashangi. I march again to-morrow.

I have &c.,

J. A. GRANT, Major, C.B.,
Intelligence Department.

Camp Musnoo or Musino,
9 a.m., 6th March 1868.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency, that the two interpreters* and I, have arrived here from Muzghee, and that we purpose to proceed to Attala, as ordered this day. The march from Muzghee

* Mr. Joseph and Waldoo Marian.

is 13 miles, and occupied me six hours upon a mule, while my baggage took 11 hours, in consequence of the bad road between this and Gurrubdikdik. The route is beautifully wooded with the wild olive and juniper cypress, but the road for the last six miles is so winding, so covered with stones, and narrowed by handsome trees and tree creepers, that it would take 100 pioneers one month at least to make it practicable for our artillery, at the same time, the ponies and mules of the Scinde Horse were in, with my own, by 10 p.m. of last night.

I have seen the interpreter Shaik Aboo Bukker, who says he will accompany me to Attala this day. He also makes great promises regarding our getting grain there, and that he will write to the different village heads ordering supplies for us. The horses and animals at this place have had almost no grass, no grain for two days, and the grass-cutters have been frightened to go far from camp, as one of them, a Seedee muleteer, was wounded by a villager. I have been unable to ascertain the exact cause of this accident, but will make Shaik Aboo inquire into it.

I am told that there is no danger of our being attacked on our route, in fact, Shaik Aboo says that the English will be welcomed by every one. The origin of the fire on the top of the rocky mountains overhanging this camp is differently accounted for by Europeans, but I have taken the opinion of the natives, who say, that it was not meant as a beacon to raise the country, but that it occurred accidentally.

Dr. Rolfs ascended to the top of this mountain yesterday in three to four hours, and ascertains its height to be about 11,000, we are now 8,000. He did not see Atala nor Ashangi from the top as there was an unfortunate mist.

I have, &c.,

J. A. GRANT, Major, C.B.,
Intelligence Department.

P.S. Shaik Abboo Bukker approves of my suggestion to take a guard with us, as he now calls the route a dangerous one. He proposed 20 sowars, but the Scinde Horse accompanies us as originally ordered.

Camp Attala,

7½ a.m., 7th March 1868.

Sir,

In continuation of my report from Colonel Phayre's camp of Musnoo, I beg to report my arrival here yesterday, in seven hours, say 12 miles, along with the interpreters and the head quarters of the Scinde Horse. The route could scarcely be worse for cavalry, as there is an ascent for the first three miles, of 2,000 feet, up an incline covered with sharp rocks and agates, and the descent, though not so long, is steeper and rather worse. These over, we got into the Gaita valley, and turning direct west from it, we entered a beautiful valley of seven miles long, at the western end of which is our present camp of Attala. The cavalry are much pleased with this place, as there is an appearance of cultivation of grass, and water runs 300 yards below our camp. It reminds me of Attegerat, but cavalry can act better here, there being more space.

From Tullukainee Koonchee, the peak below which is the watershed, and where we crossed the mountain ridge, we looked upon the countries of the Mijjerat to the north-east, the Taltall, who stretch to Massowah, different tribes of Galla to the east; and over some hills to the south-east the fort of Arrara was pointed to. None of these races interfered with our march, neither did any one else, although we were travelling on the very border of their countries.

The ridge above mentioned, is so difficult for horses, and the route such a round-about one, that I send this letter, as nearly as possible, direct to Antalo, *via* Muzghee, but I would suggest, that if postal communication is to be kept up by the Musnoo route, that runners be employed to cross the ridge of mountain. They should be posted at Musnoo, on the north side, and a cavalry picket might be posted on the south side, by a rivulet in the Gaita valley; runners should be attached to the cavalry picket on this, the south side of the ridge.

Natives describe the direct route from here to Muzghee as not so high as that below the Tulukainee Koonchee peak, which must be 10,000 feet high at the crossing, but it is steeper and more difficult for horses; at the same time, I suggest that it be examined, as it would save the army from making a detour.

The baggage of the Scinde Horse has not yet arrived in camp, and Major Briggs informs me that he hardly expects that it will arrive here till noon. This delay is caused by the difficulties in the road across the mountain, and not from any apprehension of attack.

A few bags of grain have already been purchased here, and all are friendly.

I have, &c.

J. A. GRANT, Major, C.B.,
Intelligence Department.

ENCLOSURE B.

STATEMENT showing the under-mentioned Articles, purchased by the Commissariat Department at Antalo, from the 1st instant.

8th March 1868.

Date.	Grain.		Flour.		Ghee.		Bread.		Salt.		Chillies.		Onions.		Hay.		Wood, Fire.		Sheep.		Bullocks.		Mussacks, Leather.		Skins or Hides.		Tobacco.		Coffee.	
	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Number.	Dollars.	Number.	Dollars.	Number.	Dollars.	Number.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.	Quantity.	Dollars.
1868.																														
1st March	Lbs. 2,352	140	Lbs. 2,835	318	Lbs. 98	23	Lbs. 603	74	Lbs. 152	7	Lbs. 24	2	Lbs. —	—	Lbs. 4,929	19	Lbs. 1,271	5	12	23	1	7	58	39	—	—	Lbs. —	—	Lbs. —	—
2d "	- 7,959	476	- 1,777	195	- 162	48	- 450	54	- 239	10	- 11	1	- 9	1	- 2,441	10	- 1,275	5	17	19	-	—	127	77	4	3½	-	-	-	-
3d "	- 5,765	342	- 14,400	1,501	- 214	57	- 1,800	202	- 137	6	- 38	3	- 77	5	- 6,070	24	- 750	3	39	48½	-	—	395	154	3	3	-	-	-	-
4th "	- 10,949	692	- 11,980	1,303	- 285	76	- 1,800	200	- 20	1	- —	—	- 752	54	- 2,029	8	- 250	—	58	66	-	—	269	218	—	—	46	23	30	6
5th "	- 4,998	294	- 16,037	1,736	- 235	62	- 1,000	100	- 60	3	- 14	1	- 25	2	- 5,323	21	- 750	3	85	90	-	—	301	247	1	1	-	-	-	1
6th "	- 1,679	97	- 12,371	1,341	- 145	41	- 960	96	- —	—	- 63	5	- 76	7	- 4,068	16	- 750	3	43	53	-	—	484	339	25	28	-	-	-	1
7th "	- 2,860	161	- 9,898	1,071	- 110	37	- 950	112	- —	—	- —	—	- 409	30	- 5,522	22	- 1,000	4	14	15	4	31	308	165	2	2	-	-	-	1
Total	- 36,562	2,202	- 69,298	7,465	- 1,249	344	- 7,503	838	- 608	27	- 150	12	- 1,348	99	- 30,382	120	- 6,046	23	268	304½	5	38	1,942	1,229	35	37½	46	23	30	6

A. W. SHEWELL, Lieutenant,

Sub-Assistant Commissary-General, Abyssinian Force.

Enclosure C.

Copies of Letters received from Magdala in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's Camp near Antalo, on the 2d April 1868.

No. 1.

From Mr. RASSAM to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel, Magdala, 11th February 1868.

I send Tissaha, with another messenger, to bring us money. Kindly send us 200 dollars by each, if you can. The Emperor has reached the middle of the Jeddah valley, hitherward; and yesterday he sent us a polite message, informing me of the fact. All my fellow prisoners and myself are well.

H. RASSAM.

No. 2.

From same to same, dated as above.

My dear Colonel,

I have deemed it necessary, in my critical position, to write to Lord Stanley, and explain to him my conduct with reference to the ultimatum, which I had destroyed, because I may never have the chance of doing so if I delay. Kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Lordship by the first opportunity.* You will perceive from my letter to Lord Stanley, that I have also sent to have another letter, sent by a messenger called Choorie, stopped from reaching its destination, as it is feared that any letter reaching the King about the war, might complicate matters more than ever. You know, my dear Colonel, that I have a difficult duty to perform, because, while I am in chains, I am held responsible for the safety of all the European captives, and I have to be on my guard that nothing should take place which might prove fatal to our cause. If I allow the ultimatums to reach a certain quarter, after the warnings I have received from different competent individuals, and any calamity ensues thereupon, I shall consider myself guilty before God and man for my weakness in hesitating to do what I considered right and proper. When you come near, of course communication between the chief of the force and the King would be not only advisable, but necessary. I am sending the bearer of this letter to-day, because I want him to have your messenger released, and to bring on the messengers who are bringing us money. I believe they are with Wagshoom Gobazeh, who promised to send them hitherward, with an escort as far as the end of the territory of Dalanta. I received a polite message from the King yesterday evening, he sent to inform me that he had reached the middle of the Jeddah ascent, and hoped to have a better progress after this. He has sent for Aito Samuel, our Baldaraba, this augurs well, because he would not have sent for him unless he wished to treat us well. He will be going in two or three days; as soon as he returns I will send you other messengers. All my fellow prisoners desire to be kindly remembered to you, especially Blanc and Prideaux. * * * (Remembrances, &c.)

H. RASSAM.

No. 40.

Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.
(Received April 6.)

No. 821 of 1868.

Quartermaster-General's Office,
Head Quarters Camp, Attala,
14th March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to enclose the accompanying report by the Assistant Quartermaster-General at army head quarters, on the several Departments of the Abyssinian Expedition working under the Quartermaster-General's Department.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commanding the Forces in Abyssinia.

Enclosure.

Report on the several Departments working under the orders of the Quartermaster-General's Department, Abyssinian Field Force.

Camp Attala, March 14th, 1868.

Land Transport Corps.

The last return received from the Director, Transport Train, dated 8th instant, shows—

4,682 camels,
9,793 mules,
954 ponies,
4,278 pack bullocks,
534 draught bullocks

in the corps.

Of these, 8,000 mules and ponies have been specially told off for duty with the Highland Train, to work from Senafé to the front. This order was only lately issued, and consequently the whole of these animals have not yet entered upon their duties on the highlands; there were, however, on the 8th instant 5,512 mules and ponies with the Highland Train, and of these 684 are reported sick. No return of the number of sick in the Lowland Train has been received. The Lowland Train is fully employed in pushing Commissariat and Military stores and troops from Zoula up to Senafé, and it has now the assistance of 273 mule carts and 262 bullock carts, which have been brought into work. The strain upon that portion of the Transport Corps working on the highlands has in a great measure been reduced by local transport procured for the conveyance of Commissariat stores, such as flour, grain, &c., from Senafé to Antalo. Large numbers of native pack bullocks, mules, and donkeys are daily employed for this purpose, and the system has been found so far to answer admirably. The natives in the neighbourhood of Antalo, however, are not so willing to enter into an engagement for the conveyance of supplies to the front, through fear of the Gallas, whose territory we have now entered; but it is hoped that their fears may be assuaged, and that they may soon be persuaded to assist us in this matter, and so relieve our own transport as far probably as Lat, about 80 miles south of Antalo.

An Officer has been sent to Berbera with directions to purchase as many camels and donkeys as possible, and orders have also been sent to Egypt for a further supply of transport animals of every description, to replace casualties and to reinforce the Lowland Transport Corps, the strain upon which is still very great.

Railway.

The last report received regarding the progress of the railway from Zoolla to Koomaylee shows 6 miles and 576 yards of the line to have been completed on the 26th ultimo, leaving 5 miles and 1,184 yards still to be completed. The Commanding Engineer reports that many and great difficulties have had to be contended against, from the different descriptions of plant forwarded from India; he states that the rails received from Kurrachee differ in size from those received from Bombay, that many of them are bent, and that the fish plates attached are not bolt drilled in an uniform manner; in addition to this, there has been a paucity of skilled workmen, and an insufficient amount of ordinary labour, on account of the number of other works on hand at Zoolla; but orders have been issued for every available man to be put upon this work, and the Officers commanding at Zoolla and Senafé have been directed to render every assistance in their power by placing strong working parties at the disposal of the Commanding Engineer.

The most difficult part of the line has been completed, and it is hoped that the work will now progress more rapidly.

Telegraph.

The telegraph line is completed and in working order to Addigerat, a distance of 101 miles from Zoolla, though interruptions constantly occur by breaks in the line, generally supposed to be caused by natives of the country, who steal the wire. The progress of the line onwards towards Antalo is at present delayed for want of poles; none suitable are procurable in the neighbourhood, and our transport animals are so fully employed in carrying up provisions and moving troops, that, for the next two or three weeks, there will be a difficulty in bringing any up from Zoolla. The 2d Company, Bombay Sappers, and 53 Tent Lascars, have been placed at the disposal of Lieutenant St. John, R.E., Director of the Telegraph, to assist in putting up posts, and laying the line.

Photographers and Signallers.

The head quarters of the 10th Company, Royal Engineers, including the photographers and signallers, generally march with the head quarter camp.

The photographers have been employed in photographing plans and views, as well as surveys, of the route onwards, prints of which are handed over to the Commanding Officers of Corps previous to the march. Ten Non-commissioned Officers and men of Her Majesty's 33d Regiment have been instructed in the use of flags, for the purpose of signalling, and the men of the 10th Company, Royal Engineers, have occasionally been practised with the army night signals.

Well Sinkers.

Lieutenant Le Messurier, R.E., with a party of the 10th Company, Royal Engineers, has been engaged improving the supply and the arrangements for watering animals at all the posts occupied by our troops, from Koomaylee to the front. The supply of water at Koomaylee, the largest depôt on the line, is now reported ample, and is distributed by means of six Norton's tube wells, one Bastier's 2½-inch chain pump, one fire-engine, and six dipping wells. At Upper Sooroo, troughs and tubs have been fixed, and 18,000 gallons of water stored by the road side, and a second road, to lead to the water supply, made, to avoid the high road at any time becoming blocked up; a tube well has also been driven, which affords pure drinking water, and a separate tank has been reserved for the native Shohos. At Undul, the supply is also reported good. One Bastier's 2½-inch chain pump has been fixed over a masonry well, 32 feet deep, and two Norton's tube wells driven; troughs and shoots have been erected, to receive the supply from these wells, and one other well has been dug, about 28 feet deep, with an average depth of four feet of water in each.

At Henderta (half way between Undul and Raraguddy) two wells, of 30 or 40 feet deep, have been dug in close proximity to the road, but no water reached. Small reserve tanks have been made where the spring issues from the rock above, and ladders have been erected against the face of the three cascades, so that the water above may be more easily reached.

At Raraguddy the drinking water for the camp runs from springs into six tubs, placed on stones, and tanks have been built by the road side, from which the water runs by its own gravity into 54 feet of troughing erected for animals.

At the foot of the Senafé Ghaut, arrangements for the water supply have been made, a tank has been dug, and four tubs placed for watering animals.

At Senafé the supply is ample, and has been well developed. Drinking water has been obtained from six Norton's tube wells. Water for camp purposes is provided in eleven tubs, fed by two additional Norton's tube wells. Water is supplied to the transport animals in 80 feet of troughing, led from a pond by a stone duct, and the surplus water is utilized in irrigating the soldiers' gardens.

At Goongoona, Addigerat, and Antalo, the arrangements have been perfected, but reports regarding them have not yet been received.

Trigonometrical Survey.

Lieutenant Carter, R.E., Superintendent, Great Trigonometrical Survey, Abyssinia, reports that a base line had been measured at Koomaylee, and the position of a sufficient number of peaks has been fixed to allow of the topography of the country between Koomaylee and Senafé being taken up. Lieutenant Holdich, R.E., has worked up the Koomaylee route, and with commanding points on either side sketched in the country between Zoolla and Senafé. Lieutenant Carter has commenced triangulating, fixing points and taking up the topography of the country between Senafé and Addigerat; the triangulation at and near Koomaylee, has been connected with that at Senafé by a traversed line, executed by Lieutenant Dumlér, R.E. By the foregoing work, it is hoped that a fair survey route of the army, showing the country on either side for a distance of from 10 to 15 miles, will be obtained, and on the return of the army, more geographical information will be furnished.

Periodical Returns.

Disembarkation Returns of troops, &c. at Zoolla, are in course of preparation, and will, with the General Monthly Return and Distribution Map, be forwarded by the next mail steamer.

T. J. HOLLAND,
Assistant Quartermaster-General.

RETURN showing the Number of Sick in the Transport Train.

Station.	Animals.	Remained.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.	Sore backs.	Lame.	Contusion.	Mange.	Debility.	Specific Disease.	Rheumatism.	Girth gall.	Catarrh.	Epizootic.	Remarks.
Koomaylee	Mules and horses	1,024	347	373	40	940	818	12	9	-	110	-	-	-	-	-	No Veterinary Surgeon in charge at these two places. Diseases not known.
"	Bullocks	148	71	38	-	181	142	4	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	
"	Camels	278	251	242	27	260	213	-	18	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	
Sooroo	Mules and horses	-	95	76	5	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
"	Bullocks	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
"	Camels	-	22	10	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Undul Wells	Mules and horses	13	23	24	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
"	Bullocks	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
"	Camels	-	12	6	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sensafé	Mules and horses	-	98	63	1	34	19	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Goose Plain	Mules and horses	522	177	33	28	638	233	48	-	-	352	-	-	-	-	-	
"	Bullocks	76	-	8	-	70	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
"	Camels	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Focada	Mules and horses	142	659	63	15	723	228	205	-	10	280	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals	-	2,205	1,787	935	135	2,890	1,723	280	29	10	807	-	-	-	5	2	

28th February 1868.

W. LAMB, 1st Class Veterinary Surgeon,
Transport Train.

No. 41.

From Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India, (received 6th April 1868).

Quartermaster-General's Office, Head Quarters, Camp,
Attala, 14th March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to enclose the copies of reports noted in the margin received
1. Report, dated Musgee, 1st March 1868. from Colonel R. Phayre, Deputy Quartermaster-
2. Report, dated Musno, 5th March 1868. General, A.E.F., on reconnoitring duty with the Pioneer
3. Report, dated Musno, 6th March 1868. Force.
4. Report, dated Attala, 7th March 1868.

Photographed sketch plans of the route as far as Musnoo are also enclosed. A plan of the route from Musnoo to Attala will be forwarded by next mail.

I also beg to attach for perusal copies of reports from Major Briggs, Commanding Sinde Irregular Horse, and Captain MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, of the route from Musgee to Attala.

I have, &c.,
R. NAPIER, Lieut. General,
Commanding the Forces in Abyssinia.

ADVANCED RECONNOISSANCE.

Continuation of Quartermaster-General's Report. Advance from Antalo to Woggerat, Ashangi, and Magdala.

Friday, 21st February.—The Infantry of the Pioneer force arrived this day, having cleared the line of route as described in last report to Booyuh. Pitched their camp rather more than a mile in advance on the Bullat spur, to allow of their clearing the line up to the Musgee pass, before advancing to that place. Working parties of the 33rd employed in road clearing in camp, cutting firewood, &c.

Saturday, 22nd February.—Proceeded with Lieut. Jopp, R.E., towards Musgee, and pointed out the route to be followed by the army, with a view to his laying out the best line procurable down from the Chafeet table into the Musgee valley.

Sunday, 23rd February.—In consequence of information received from Head Quarters, ordered back the Infantry portion of the Pioneer force to the Afghool spur, to cut an easier line down it than the steep zigzag already cleared by them on the native track.

Dr. Rohlf's visited the Antalo amba, which is named Amba Arädoom.

He found it to be about 9,300 feet above the sea. There is a good water supply on the summit, from springs which yield from 8 to 10,000 gallons per diem. Fields are at present under cultivation on the table land of the amba. There are a few juniper and olive trees, as also the sheta or soap tree.

The rocks are red and white sandstone and conglomerate.

There are two paths on the east side, accessible for mules.

The following bearings were taken from S.W. point.

Locota 180°.
Amba Allagi 145°.
The Hamen range 260°.
Amba Belbel 230° 2 miles distant.
Mount Lachit 70°, 50 miles distant.
Lembien district 330°.
Chelicut 45°.

Monday and Tuesday, 24th and 25th February.—Engaged in surveying and other duties.

Wednesday, 26th February.—Marched this morning, with Lieut. Colonel Loch's Detachment of Cavalry, to Musgee, the first stage, from Antalo to Ashangi and Magdala. Procured a working party of the Belooch Battalion from General Collings, to carry on the clearing of the line from Ballat commenced by Major Pierce's Detachment of the Pioneer force.

Entrance to the Woggerat hills from the plain country eastward of Antalo. The Woggerat hills are entered by three lines of route from the Antalo plains; viz.,

Addirak. By a line direct from Eikhullut by Huddamo and Udrak.

2nd. By Afghool to Booyuh, leaving Antalo to the westward.

3rd. By a line direct from the town of Antalo, which falls into the second one above referred to at the cross roads on the Chafeet plateau, 4 miles from Booyuh camp.

Route direct from Eikhullut by Huddamo and Udrak to Musgee, 18 miles.

scarcely passable for laden

Eikhullut to Huddamo 10 miles, 7 furlongs, 133 yards; on to Musgee 7 miles, 76 yards.

troops. Its description is as follows:—

First day's march from Booyuh near Antalo to Musgee in Woggerat, 8 miles, 1 furlong, 100 yards.

500 feet above Booyuh is attained on the fine extensive plateau of Chafect.

For the first four miles to the cross roads on Chafect, the road is generally very good, except that at the entrance of the narrow pass of Mai Shoom Booko, close to Bullat, there is about 150 yards of bad rocky ground; and five furlongs further on, at the northern foot of the Chafect plateau, there is a rise of 220 feet in a distance of about half a mile.

In attaining the highest point of the plateau there is another steep rise of 60 or 70 feet in a distance of 300 yards.

Village of Goomullo. The village of Goomullo about miles from the line of route to the west, has a small water supply in the ravine below it, as also from the more distant stream of the Gurrub Goomaylo, which will be described below.

Descent from Chafect. The descent from the Chafect plateau on the Musgee side is good for a distance of a mile and a quarter to the head of the Addi Kotunee pass, except at one or two points, which will be avoided or improved under Lieut. Jopp's superintendence.

The Addi Kotunee pass (cotton). The Addi Kotunee pass at present is a steep and rugged fall of nearly 200 feet in a distance of 300 yards, which will also be improved as soon as possible, it being barely passable at present for laden animals.

This pass is said to be, generally speaking, infested by banditti, and certainly the very difficult character of the ground would favour their purposes.

Addi Kotunee Valley.

In this neighbourhood, and in Woggerat tracts of country, including a mountain on high plateau, sources of the water and the lines of drainage bear the same name.

A large mountain, Mooga, has different names for its respective water sources.

Grass at present $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles distant from Musgee camp.

For further accounts regarding grass, see the close of this report.

It will be necessary, therefore, to send grass cutters to the Addi Kotunee valley and hills around, to cut grass.

The Mai Gurrub Goomayloo stream and gorge.

gorge of the same name, is a distance of three furlongs of very rugged rocky road, including the descent into the gorge. There is a good deal of work required here.

Remains of defensive works of Waagshum Gobaze's troops, built of rough dry stone, may be traced on both sides of this gorge, as also his camp on the flat spurs of Mount Mooga that bound the western side of it, and their extension southward, on the last of which our camp has been laid out.

From the point where the Gurrub Goomaylo is crossed to camp, a distance of three furlongs, very little work is required, the road being level and good.

The Gurrub Goomaylo is a fine brook of excellent running water, which at present flows out from the rocks beneath the dry beds of the Musgee and Ullut torrents, within a furlong of the head of the gorge just mentioned.

The Mai Nubbe.

The Medumbur.

The Gurrub Dulrona.

The Gurrub Dikdik, flowing along the eastern base of Bet Mara and Eibutto.

The Mai Musgee Shellénats.

The Mai Mussahal Tagora.

The Mai Waglee Mooja.

The Mai Ullut Mooja.

From this point southward the very extensive and level valley of Musgee opens out. Its drainage line receives the storm waters of a large tract of mountainous country, including the principal Mounts Bet Mara and Eibutto, Turrur Numro Tagora, Alajzi, Mooja, and others. At present the open area of the valley has no water, though towards the heads of it plenty is to be had in the above-named water lines.

There are several small villages on the surrounding hills, but very little cultivation in this part.

Thursday, 27th February.—In consequence of orders received from Army Head Quarters, directing the return of the sappers and infantry of the Pioneer force under Major Pierce, to return towards Dolo, widening the road, rode back to camp Booyuh to consult with General Collings on the subject.

It was arranged that Captain Hogg's detachment of the Belooch battalion, which had arrived at Booyuh two days previously, should be employed on the road from Booyuh to Musgee, in place of the troops sent back, there being a great deal of work to be done on the line under report, as described above.

2 European Officers.

2 Native officers.

167 Non-commissioned officers, rank, and file.

17 Public followers.

2 Private.

Friday, 28th February.—Engaged the whole day in laying out a camp at Musgee. Captain Hogg's detachment of the 1st Belooch battalion arrived in the evening, after working at the road from Booyuh the whole day.

Halted at Musgee.

Saturday, 29th February.—Went this morning on a tour of reconnaissance towards Messino, the next station en route to Ashangi. Instructed the guide, who is a soldier sent by the Woggerat chief for the purpose of showing us the roads of the country, to take me by the best and easiest line to Messino, which I found to be as follows:—

Halted at Musgee.

Route from Musgee to Messino.

1st. From Musgee Camp to the left bank of the Meddumbur torrent, 1 mile, 3 furlongs, 98 yards; rise in feet above the sources of the Gurrub Goomaylo, 105 feet.

black soil, last part stony, on gently sloping ground towards the low hills at the base of mountains Eibutto and Wasta. The line should be straightened.

The Medumbur is a deep dry torrent bed, about 150 feet from bank to bank, and 25 feet deep; easy slopes required into and out of its bed.

3rd. To the market place of Medumbur, 3 furlongs, 82 yards.

Within a mile to the southward of the market place is the small village of Gavazze, situated on a spur, which may be recognized by a large single tree, seen from a great distance.

Road plain and good, as before.

4th. Across the Gurrub Duboree a second time to the foot of Gavazze spur, 5 furlongs, 35 yards; rise from No. 1 point to this, 116 feet.

5th. To top of spur, 3 furlongs, 117 yards; rise 190 feet.

6th. Across Gavazze plateau to commencement of descent into the valley of the Gurrub dikdik, 7 furlongs, 140 yards; further rise of 145 feet.

bushes; very little grass at present. It affords an easy means of turning the rugged and precipitous heights of Eibutto and Bet Mara, from whose lower slopes it is separated by the Gurrub Dikdik, at about a mile distance.

7th descent into the Valley of the Gurrub Dikdik.

M.	F.	Yds.
0	1	180
Fall, 60 feet.		

Easy, but very rugged descent, from the loose stones, all of which must be removed, and the road across the watercourse at foot cut to a width of 12 feet.

8th, to village and flowing water of Gurrub Dikdik.

M.	F.	Yds.
1	7	66
Rise, 218 feet.		

Total 6½ miles from Musgee.

Road easy, but stony, and requiring to be cleared of jungle, which is gradually increasing in thickness.

The route is up the right bank of the river to the small village of Gurrub Dikdik, where a brook from Bet Mara enters the main stream.

From this point onward to Messino, there is flowing water the whole way. Lofty and prettily wooded height on both sides.

Those of Arnbasso village and mountain on the left, and of Eibutto and Bet Mara on right.

The area of the valley, about 200 yards wide up to this, is ploughed for cultivation. Soil, sandy and reddish; good ground for a small camp at Gurrub at Dikdik. Plenty of good water and firewood, but no grass, except green turf here and there on the banks of the river. Boosuh should be procurable.

9th. From Gurrub Dikdik village into the Meyda Merra Pass, where the survey was closed.

M.	F.	Yds.
0	4	14
Rise about 100 yards.		

the route winds at one moment up the steep rocky sides of the pass for 40 or 50 feet high, and then falls abruptly into short spaces of clear ground below. Some of the trees are very fine, and would cost considerable time and labour to remove, in order to clear a practicable path for laden cattle.

It would be equally difficult for us to deal with the masses of solid rock that obstruct the present narrow and difficult pathway.

I was led, from native accounts, to believe that Messino was only eight miles or so from Musgee. We had now travelled seven, when, on enquiry, I learnt that a bluff rock named Ladakok, seen at the head of the pass, about three miles distant, was a mile or so short of Messino, and that the four or five miles referred to were across a similar ground to that which we had just entered. I therefore closed the survey for the purpose of returning to camp.

Survey closed on the 29th February at the Meyda Merra Pass.

During our stay in this pass of an hour or two, I had an opportunity of closely examining its character, and I would respectfully submit for His Excellency's consideration, that to attempt to cut a road out of the sides (except in easy parts) would be a larger work than we have time or labour to execute. I would therefore propose, that wherever it may be necessary, the line be carried along the smooth ground, on which green crops are now standing. The owner of several of these fields, Aytoo Samos, of the village of Wazza, being on the spot, I took him into one of them, and having marked out a space of 10 or 12 feet on one edge of it, explained that we had a large number of mules and

some elephants coming this way, and that we wished to purchase a roadway for them along the edge his field, as indicated.

He was utterly incredulous regarding the elephants, and burst out laughing, but at the same time said, that if we brought money with us, we would settle the price of removing the standing crop, and carry the road as we pleased.

Should this plan be approved of, the working parties, after clearing the $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Musgee to Gurrub Dikdik, could form a camp at the latter place, work on to Messino, there being flowing water the whole way, as I have been informed.

That this work should be undertaken as soon as possible is the more to be desired, owing to the want of supplies of grain for our cattle at or near to Musgee.

I yesterday morning brought this serious want to General Merewether's notice, and begged him to send to me one of the men sent to our camp by the Woggerat chief to assist us in this way.

Sheik Aboo Bukur was accordingly sent, and arrived in the afternoon, shortly after my return from the reconnaissance under report. In a long conversation with him I learnt that very little grain would be procured at all from Musgee as a centre, and then only on market days at Meddumbur, above referred to. That from Messino as a centre we could obtain considerable supplies by sending to markets around, one of which was Lubat, about eight miles beyond Alajji, where the Gallas bring large quantities, and would bring more on their learning that there would be a ready sale for it.

The market in question takes place on Mondays; and I suggested to the sheik that he should go there and purchase for us, but he replied that the distance (20 miles) was too great to bring it to Musgee, the road being difficult, but that the country people themselves would probably bring it to Messino, which is within six or seven miles of it.

The cavalry horses and mules not having had any grain here for the last two days, Lieut.-Colonel Loch has arranged to send to Antalo to-day to purchase some.

Immediate attention, however, to this want of grain, is the more important, because from the valley of Addi Kotune to Musgee and Messino, a distance of 14 miles, there is little or no grass in the country at the present time. What there is could be collected only by a good deal of

labour on the part of the grass cutter. As already reported above, there is very little long grass in the Gurrub Dikdik valley.

There is turf in parts, but the transport cattle could not be allowed to wander along the valley in quest of it, owing to the well-known predatory habits of the Gallas, some of whom, armed, were met with on to day's march.

2nd Day's March.

	M.	F.	Yds.
From Musgee to Musno,	12	1	130
Total rise in feet from Musgee valley to camp at Musno,	1,400 feet, viz., 500 to Gurrub-Dikdik, 6 m. 2 f. 0 yds., and 900 feet from that to camp Musno, a distance of 5 m. 7 f. 0 yds.		
Dr. Rohlf's gives the boiling point at camp Musno 197-6° Fahrenheit.			

The first part of this march was described in the report of 29th ultimo, viz., from Musgee to the village of Gurrub Dikdik in the valley of the same name, a distance of 6 m. 2 f. 90 yds. The route lies through open country, the only difficult part being the short ascent to and descent from the Gavazze spur. This part is now in course of being cleared by the Pioneer force.

Wednesday, 4th March 1868.—Marched at 7 a.m. with Colonel Loch's detachment of cavalry, and a havildar's party of the Belooch Battalion, leaving the rest of the Pioneer force, commissariat, &c. at Gurrub Dikdik.

About half a mile above Gurrub Dikdik, the pass becomes much narrower than before, and in three or four places, described below, is confined for a short distance between rugged rocky spurs of the Bet Mara range on the western side and of the Wodgera and Abedda on the eastern.

1st. The Wozzo defile, two furlongs long, has been provided for by purchasing from Ayto Samoo, the head man of Wuzzo, the cultivated fields in the bed of the valley, through which the roadway may now avoid the steep rugged paths of the hill side.

2nd. At the ascent to the short narrow gap of Mukkumo, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles further on, there is a steep rise of 110 feet in 170 yards. Road surface smooth and gravelly.

Dense forest of juniper, olive, and other trees.

Quara peak.

3rd. About two furlongs after descending from this height, the thick forest of Gurrano Mendaff has to be traversed for about two miles, the road being partly good and partly very rugged, and confined between the lofty peak of Quarra on the western side, and the towering precipices of Atsmoreu on the eastern.

These heights are at least 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the general level of the pass, and are quite inaccessible from the part of the road which they directly overhang. They might be flanked from the head of the pass.

There are several short stiff rises and falls in the distance under reference, some of which may be avoided when the line is being cleared.

The pass generally is Gurrub Dikdik, but the stream is known at various parts by the name of its tributaries, such as Mai Beb Mara, Mai Avano.

4th. The first part of the Mai Avano defile, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Musno, is rugged, and confined for a short distance.

All these obstacles occupy in the aggregate about half the distance of six miles under description. The remaining three miles are through open ground, and the road good, if cleared of loose stones and jungle.

General gradient of the Gurrub Dikdik pass.

Head of the pass at Musno.

The heights around are nearly denuded of trees. At the foot of the mountains to the westward there are thick juniper woods.

Route onward to Attala.

The Felluk Einnk Oonzool pass.

The general gradient of the whole pass is good, and may, I believe, be made as good as the part of the Senafé pass immediately below Rayrayguddy. The encamping ground in the valley of Musno, at the head of the pass, is as open as could be expected in a very mountainous country. It is black soil, and free from jungle.

The pass out of the valley towards our next stage, Attala, is called Felluk Einuk Oonzool, and appears to be very steep, with a want of length to remedy that defect. The whole route to Attala has been described to me as difficult, and about 15 miles in length.

About an hour or two after my arrival in camp, a messenger from Wolda Yassoo, the brother of the Woggerat chief, arrived with intelligence that a hostile chief named Araya, of Arara, about 15 or 20 miles distant across the mountains in the Attala direction, was likely to attack us, on the march to the latter place, with a force of Gallas.

Sent at once to order up Captain Hogg's detachment of the 1st Belooch battalion (160 men), which I had left about five miles down the pass at work, and forwarded a report of the circumstance to his Excellency the Commander-in-chief.

Previously to the arrival of this messenger, and shortly after our tents were pitched, a high hill in the Attala direction was set on fire; very probably as a signal of our approach to Araya, who still acknowledges Theodore as his sovereign, and through him to Theodore himself.

The people in these mountains are evidently in great fear of the Gallas; the messenger who came from Wolda Yassoo declined to go down to our last camp with a letter, for fear of them. Fortunately the chief of the village of Mukkunna, which I had passed this morning, came to me with presents of bread, in return for two dollars I had given him for showing me the road, &c., and he at once volunteered to take the letter, and to guide the detachment to my camp, even after dark this evening, a service which I had failed to induce any other Abyssinian to undertake, though a good reward had been promised. The chief is a very intelligent man, and I shall endeavour to employ him.

After despatching the orders for the detachment of the Belooch regiment to move to the front, received about 5 p.m. the general orders dated 3rd instant directing its return to Antalo. This order will be carried out on the arrival of the troops ordered to compose the Pioneer force, should his Excellency deem it advisable to weaken that force under present circumstances, there being a long defile to clear, and the head of the pass to be held at the same time, with a detachment strong enough to check Araya and his Gallas.

Supplies at Musno.

Thursday 5th March.—Yesterday small quantities of barley, wheat, and flour were brought in during the day, but scarcely any grass or boosah. This last deficiency we were led to anticipate by previous information, and hence the necessity of completing this road with all possible despatch, so as to move the cavalry and baggage animals into a better supplied country. If neither grain nor forage are to be had, I would respectfully submit for consideration that the head of the pass be held by an infantry detachment to cover the working parties in the pass. It is essential, however, that the work should be accomplished with all possible despatch, owing to the difficulties of supply now represented. There are several small villages on the slopes of the hills which form an amphitheatre around Musno, but they are almost deserted.

There is no grass visible on the hill sides, and what little there was on the mountain top has been destroyed by the fire which has burned fiercely all night, and is doing so still at 5 a.m.

Gubray, head man of Mukkuma, states that there is no market held at Musno. The next market is on Mondays at Kheir, about eight miles east by south, and Goora Goorogo in the same direction. Also at Dubbut near Attala S.E. about 12 miles, on Mondays.

The Galla border is about 10 miles E.S.E.; nearest villages Ayroo and Beechay.

Arrara is only about 10 miles from Attalo.

Estimates Attalo to be about 10 miles from this.

Head man of Gootea village westward on the Bet Mara range came in this morning, and promised to bring some grain.

Having made the requisite camp arrangements here, I shall ride back to Gurrub Dikdik this morning (5th), to ascertain what troops of the Pioneer force have arrived, and how the road clearing is progressing.

Friday, 6th March.—On my return to this camp from Gurrub Dikdik yesterday evening, learnt from Lieut.-Col. Loch that one of his grass cutters had been cut down near camp. His report is enclosed.

Shortly after this, the Scinde Horse, under Major Briggs, with Major Grant, arrived in camp, bringing daks from Head Quarters, and orders from Brigadier-General Field, commanding the Pioneer force, assuming command, &c.

I at once informed Colonel Loch, that in accordance with G.O. C., dated 3rd instant, and the orders just received from Brigadier-General Field, I made over to him all military duties and responsibility connected with the Pioneer force, as exercised by me under orders from army Head Quarters for a month past, during the advance from Senafé to this place. I also informed Colonel Loch that I would ask him to place at my disposal a small reconnoitring escort of 1 havildar and 12 rank and file of the Belooch battalion, and a Native officer and 25 non-commissioned rank and file of cavalry, to enable me to carry on my reconnaissance of the country a few miles in advance of the troops.

Although I exerted myself to the utmost from my first arrival here to obtain supplies of grain for the troops and transport cattle, and sent to the surrounding villages for the purpose, we failed to get

any. Yesterday my horses and mules had no grain, and very little forage indeed, and the cavalry only three lbs. The grass was purchased at an exorbitant rate.

Sheik Aboo Beber, the agent placed at our disposal by the chief of Woggerat, with large promises of everything in this country, only joined me again from Antalo last evening; and he now states that instead of plenty of grain being procurable at Musno as a centre the best place will be Attala.

He also informed me that the report conveyed to me by the messenger, who had professed to come from Wolda Yasoos, was utterly untrue, and that the three chiefs of Araya, to whom he referred, though hostile to the Woggerat chief, were friendly to us, and would never think of interfering with us, &c. He stated their permanent establishment of troops to be as per margin.

Agreeably with instructions from General Merewether, I have made over the Sheik to Major Grant, for the purpose of proceeding with him and the Scinde horse to Attala to-day, and requested him to leave two men of his establishment with me, to show me the country.

Having by the same post above referred to received a copy of Mon. Munzinger's report, dated 2nd instant, describing his route from Musgee to Bel Mara by the valley of the Eibutto and Mishig streams westward of the Gurrub Dikdik, I learn that Sheim Salowa Baria Gurgis, and his brother, Wolda Yasoos, have been quietly looking down upon us from the heights of Bet Mara, during our march from Musgee to this, without offering us any assistance in the way of supplies, or affording any information, except the caution to beware of the Araya chief and the surrounding gallas already reported.

I know this message to have been authentic, because it was brought by one of the men (Hailo Mariam), who was the bearer of a letter and presents from the Woggerat chief to his Excellency, as reported by me from Eithullut on 15th February.

It certainly does not appear from these facts that as yet the Woggerat chief's performances have been equal to his promises. His agents have been well paid and courteously treated in my camp; yet the best aid I have received, such as it is, has been from friends of our own making en-route.

Having completed the survey of the Gurrub Dikdik pass up to this, I propose to carry the reconnaissance to Attala, under the protection of the escort above referred to. En route, I shall endeavour to gain information of the Musgee line followed by Mons. Munzinger. This, combined with his report, which General Merewether has kindly promised to send to me, will complete our information of two of the lines of advance towards Ashangi from Musgee.

From Musno there are two roads to Ashangi, and three to Attala, as will be seen from the sketch map. The direct one to Attala by the right is out of the question, being over the highest parts of the Dopga dooka range. The centre one also, via Attala, which Major Grant will follow, turns the highest points referred to, but is still very stiff, to all appearance. This I am anxious to reconnoitre at once. The third one, the left of the three, goes direct to Araya, and would evidently save us a good deal of trouble and some distance. Araya is said to be only 12 miles from Musno direct, the only objection to this route being that it leads to the head quarters of the three chiefs above named, whom Sheikh Aboo Buke asserts are only hostile to the Woggerat chief, not to us.

I think it right to bring all these points under his Excellency's notice, in order that, should it be deemed advisable, as I would respectfully submit that it is, the Araya chiefs may be addressed on the subject of the road through their country, and of our friendly disposition towards them. In the meantime I propose to reconnoitre to Attala.

- 1st. Sketch of the route from Musgee to Musno.
- 2nd. Sketch of camp at Musno.

A sketch plan, showing our position with reference to the country, as given in the War Office map, is enclosed for his Excellency's information, also those as per margin.

Saturday, 7th March—The direct road from Musno to Ashangi is by Araya, about 12 miles distant,

	M.	F.	Yds.
Third day's march from Musno to Attala	10	6	0
Rise en route, 1,500 feet; fall to Attala,	1,600	feet.	

in a southerly direction, but for political reasons it is not taken. The next best line is by Attala, to reach which place from the Gurrub Dikdik valley and Musno it is necessary to cross the Alajji chain of mountains by the Fulluk Eimuk Oonzool pass, which opens out a passage between the lofty granite scarp and table of Tabuddun and the Gerra Boochun hill. This pass is said to be, on the best native authority, more practicable in point of gradient and road surface than that on the direct line from Musgee to Attala by Alajji, and it was therefore adopted.

Fulluk Eimuk Oonzool Pass,
Tabuddun Scarp.

The information proved to be false; and on further examination the Alajji pass has been adopted, in preference to the one first recommended.

R. NAPIER.

The summit is about 1,500 feet above our camp at Musno, and about 3 miles 6 furlongs distant from the latter. A fall of 1,600 feet into the Attala valley then occurs in $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles, the first mile and a half of which is, I think, the worst road we have yet met with in Abyssinia.

The description of the line, and the work required, is as follows:—

	M.	F.	Yds.
1st, from Mussoo to Mofka village	0	7	46

Easy ascent of about 160 feet to open undulating plain of Gurra Gullasse; country well wooded and cultivated. The mountains of Woggerat extend a great distance to the north, as seen from a neighbouring height. Rock granite, soil black.

The watercourse in continuation of the Mai Fussassee has no water at present. It is called Zabana Adaga.

	M.	F.	Yds.
2nd, from Mofka to Musso Moosa	-	0	7 69

juniper in parts; road choked with blocks of granite and loose stones. Mussa Moosa is a small plateau about 450 or 500 feet above Musno.

	M.	F.	Yds.
3rd, from Mussa Moosa to top of the worst part of the pass	-	0	7 45
Felluk Einuk Oonzool.			

and the ground might be examined with that object.

	M.	F.	Yds.
4th, to summit of pass at Gurra Bochayla	1	0	44
5th, to Mai Fulluk Einuk Oonzool	-	0	5 205
6th, to top of Tabuddun Spur	-	0	4 66
Tabuddun high peak is 500 feet higher than the head of the pass.			

These ravines lead into the broad open country of Ayoro, several hundred feet below the ledge to the south, through which the Araya road lies.

In No. 5 the road on the ledge is rugged, but is capable of being made good. In No. 6 it is very bad, and will require to be made with care, at least 12 feet broad, in consequence of the precipitous character of the ground on the low side, which renders a narrow road dangerous for large numbers of laden cattle.

The Mai Felluk Einuk Oonzool would supply water for a company of pioneers for a day, but not, probably, for their animals, unless arrangements were made below the springs to catch the outflow in troughs.

The basin in which the springs rise should be deepened and cleansed. It will be a matter of great importance to our troops that the small supply of water at Mussa Moosa, Fulluk Einuk Oonzool, and Jenna should be developed to its utmost extent, as during the approaching hot season these watering places will be very useful.

7th. Descent from the Tabuddun Spur to the village of Tanna, 1 mile, 3 furlongs, 45 yards.

The first mile of this is an abrupt and precipitous fall by a series of short rocky zigzags into open steeply sloping ground. It has been represented to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that it would be a loss of time and labour to attempt to use this part of the native road, and hence the expediency of making immediate arrangements to relieve Captain Goodfellow and the sappers and pioneers from other work, for the purpose of undertaking the laying out and cutting of a line through Nos. 5, 6 and 7.

8th. From Tenna village to Attala camp, 4 miles, 2 furlongs, 40 yards.

Very little work is required in this distance. The valley slopes gently to the westward, and, excepting in parts where a few loose stones have to be removed, the road is all that can be desired.

The Attala valley is a fine open tract of black soil; well cultivated during the rainy season, and at present also, in one or two parts where the means of irrigation exist. It is about a mile broad, and enclosed by two chains of mountains, of which Alajji, Lessat, and Tabuddam form the principal heights on the north side, and Lidda, Dowra, &c., &c., on the other.

From the foot of either chain the ground slopes gently towards the Mai Attala in the centre.

End of Attala valley.

At Attala spurs from either chain meet at the river, which passes through the gorge thus formed. The supply of water is excellent and abundant.

There ought, judging from the quantity of cultivated land in the valley, to be an abundance of grain, which as yet has not come in.

The supply of grass is not abundant near Attala, but will last perhaps for the next fortnight or thereabouts.

It would be requisite to establish a dépôt in a part better supplied with forage.

There is a market at Lebat, within three or four miles, on Mondays.

R. PHAYRE,
Deputy Quartermaster-General.

JOURNAL.

8th March 1868.—Rode to Masuoo, showing the sappers a site for a camp about two miles from this, and near the stiff bit of road. The sappers and pioneers marched at 7 for this camp. After breakfast went to look at the road towards Attala, with a view to select camping grounds for the working party who will be engaged on it. Started at 12.30. The road leads out of Camp Masuoo by a gentle ascent, which continues for two miles to the foot of the ghat. This is quite easy, and the Belooches have already done about half, and will complete the rest to-morrow. The ascent of the pass then commences, and continues uninterrupted for 65 minutes, the whole gradient being so excessively steep that the mules may get up it as those of Colonel Phayre and party have done. I do not think it can fairly be termed a practicable mule path; and while the whole gradient is very severe, there are some places which, for a few feet only it is true, rise up in a regular staircase. The path is very narrow, and is

covered throughout with large boulders and stones, some embedded firmly into the soil, and some loose. The ascent here is so bad that on my return I took within 10 minutes of the same time to descend that I did to ascend, owing to the necessity for careful stepping. Not being an engineer, my opinion as to the time which will be necessary to make this road may not be worth much; yet, as I have had some experience of hill road making, and have our rate of progress behind to compare by, my estimate may not be very far wrong, and that is, that six days is the very lowest it will take. Though there are several places during the ascent of this pass which are most suitable in other respects for camping grounds, I have as yet failed in finding any water near Domorrow. I propose to go again in the hope of finding some, as the want of it will delay the works considerably. On reaching the top of the pass, which must be a considerable height above Masuoo, the wildest and grandest scenery I have yet seen in this country burst on the view. To the south, stretching away to the east, are the rugged forest clad spurs of the Bet Mara ranges, and to the east are spread out a wild medley of hills, rising up in irregular succession till they disappear in the far distance. From the top of the pass the road descends somewhat gradually for $\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the first and only water I found on this route; it proceeds from a very small spring, and might with care be sufficient for the drinking purposes of two companies for a few days, and as, with clearing, sufficient ground may be got for camping this number of men it will come in useful as a working camp when the road to the top of the pass shall have been made. From this point the road descends the whole way of the Attala valley hugging the sides of the Bet Mara peak for some two miles, then belting a south-east spur. The gradient is, on the whole, easier than on the other side of the pass; but this is all that can be said in favour of the road, which is in all other respects as bad, being covered from beginning to end with huge rocks, boulders, or sharp stones, so that it would be difficult for an elephant to find a single spot where it might place its foot in safety. Sometimes it goes through miniature defiles of rock, originally formed (doubtless) by the descent of water from the heights above; at others it is little more than an edge overhanging precipices; while, again, the huge boulders, spread along the path in wild confusion, seem laid with the express purpose of obstructing all progress, the passage between them being in many places so narrow that it seems almost impossible for a mule to squeeze through. I took $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours going and $3\frac{3}{4}$ returning, and I only reached to within two miles, returning to Massuoo at 7.45 p.m. If the first portion would take six days, the second cannot certainly be done in less; and I should say that 12 days for the whole was a moderate estimate.

In this description of the above road I have striven to eliminate all exaggeration, and I sincerely believe that the account I have given is in no way overcoloured. I have seen in Bhotan and the higher parts of the Sikkim Himalayas very bad roads before, yet I cannot call to mind more than three or four which were like this, or which continued bad for so great a proportion of its length. I have requested Captain Goodfellow to read this journal with a view to inducing him to come and see the road for himself, and thus be in a position to give his Excellency the benefit of his professional opinion. A letter came in here yesterday from Colonel Phayre, which will doubtless contain all necessary information regarding Attala, and this we shall hear on General Field's arrival; but at present I may mention that a post sowar who has been there reports that there is abundance of grass. Should this prove the case General Field may consider it advisable to move forward the cavalry and baggage animals, as here they are merely subsisting.

C. M. MACGREGOR,
Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.

Masuoo.

From the Officer Commanding 3rd Sinde Horse to the Brigade-Major, Cavalry Brigade.

Sir,

Camp Atzala, March 7th, 1868.

I have the honour to report, in accordance with , that the track between Muzgee and Gurrub Degdeg is about seven miles in length, for the first part rough, stony, and through very scrubby and thorny jungle, soil black; practicable for cavalry and infantry, but not for artillery. Passed over a small rivulet; the road then wound through a narrow valley, hills on each side, slightly wooded. Halted at Degdeg for an hour; marched on Musuoo, distant about six miles, track running parallel to a stream on the right, very rough and stony, through a thick jungle and black soil, practicable only for light infantry, who would have to force their way through the underwood. Crossed the afore-mentioned stream, which is very shallow, with sandy bottom, several times.

Steep mountains on either side, in parts perpendicular, and commanding the track in most places. Here and there, where the valley opened out, were patches of cultivation and turf, on which cattle were seen grazing.

Halting place.—Confined, not practicable for cavalry. All supplies very scarce; water abundant from stream running through the valley (above referred to), with a general direction of south to north.

Country people not so friendly as those theretofore met with.

In continuation, I have the honour to report that I arrived at this place on the 6th instant at about 7 p.m.; that the baggage of the regiment did not arrive until afternoon of the 7th instant, consequently I was unable to send you this report earlier.

From Musuoo to Attala the distance is about 12 miles, the road over mountainous country, very difficult of ascents and descent; most of the troopers obliged to dismount. About an hour after the march the leading file of my detachment reached a small plateau, where a halt was found necessary for nearly an hour.

Ascended again for about half an hour, reaching another plateau; from this place the descent commenced over a very rough and stony track, soil black, scarcely practicable for infantry. No streams

of any note crossed. Surrounding country steep and mountainous, well wooded. No cultivation in this district. The whole route until within three or four miles of Attala impassable for artillery; and, in my opinion, with the aid of strong working parties and an engineer to direct them, it would be weeks before this part of the road could be made practicable for this arm of the service. Nothing I have ever experienced surpassed the difficulty of the road until we entered the valley three or four miles from camp. Through this valley there was a good hard road, evidently much frequented, from the westward; soil still black.

Owing to excessive fatigue, three (3) horses died; one horse was ordered to be shot (broken down), and on account of fracture of the near fore leg, a fifth was ordered to be shot, all on the line of march; in addition Major Dickinson's Australian horse also died from the effects of the march and previous want of sufficient forage.

Halting place, Attala.

Large open plain; stream running through from E. to W. Water sufficient for as large an army as the Abyssinian Expeditionary Field Force. Ground practicable for any of the three arms of the service. Supplies and grain, at present, scarce. Grass plentiful up the valley within two miles.

Country people, as far as we have experienced, peaceably inclined, but as yet appear unwilling to bring in supplies.

I have, &c.

W. BRIGGS, Major,
Commanding 3rd Sinde Horse.

Attila, 8th March 1868.

3 p.m.—In the matter of supplies, an improvement since the morning; more grain coming in; still more expected to-morrow morning. (Fair day.)

I have, &c.

W. BRIGGS, Major,
Commanding Sinde Horse.

No. 42.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 20th April 1868)

Political Department, No. 16.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp Attala,
16th March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to transmit, for your information, copies of letters received in my camp on the 8th instant from our countrymen in Abyssinia, together with a *précis* of their contents prepared for public information.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinian
Expeditionary Force.

Enclosures.

Copies of Letters received in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's camp Antalo, from Magdala, on 8th March 1868.

No. 1.

II. RASSAM, Esq., on special Mission to the King of Abyssinia, to Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.S.I., K.C.B.

Sir,

Magdala, 15th February 1868.

I have the honour to apprise your Excellency that your letter, without date, addressed to the King of Abyssinia, and forwarded by an Abyssinian messenger named Choori, was brought to me yesterday afternoon with an Amharic translation.

2. Doubtless, your Excellency has been informed ere now by Colonel Merewether of my having prevented the ultimatum from reaching the King of Abyssinia, addressed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on account of my apprehension that it would endanger the safety of the Abyssinian captives, which calamity, both my fellow prisoners and myself are confident, would be deplored by his Lordship.

3. I have already written to Lord Stanley explaining the reasons which actuated me in taking that step; that letter I have sent through Colonel Merewether, and in case some accident befel it on the road, I transmit to you herewith a copy of the same, in order that you may see what were the objections which induced me to have recourse to that expedient.

4. When I read your Excellency's letter above alluded to, I thought at first of forwarding it myself to the King, but on hearing this morning of His Majesty's knowledge of what is taking place at the coast, coupled with his unceasing pretended friendship towards me, I have deemed it advisable, after the warnings I received both from both Europeans and Abyssinians who know the character of Theodorus well, to detain the delivery of it for the present. Its receipt might irritate the despot's temper, and make him resort to some rash act which would frustrate all my endeavours to prevent further sufferings to the helpless captives.

5. Had I even thought that the delivery of the letter in question could be of any material advantage to the duty entrusted to you, I would have certainly refrained from meddling with it, but being convinced of the injurious effect it might create in the mind of our suspicious captor, I have not hesitated to pursue what seemed to me the most expedient course.

6. The Amharic translation that accompanied your Excellency's letter I can never forward to its destination, because I am told by competent persons that the latter part of the first paragraph and the whole of the last have been rendered so strong into Amharic that it would most assuredly provoke the King to act rashly.

7. He has no power now to send us down safely to the British camp, which fact he thinks that every one in Abyssinia ought to know; therefore he would construe the meaning of the last paragraph into the belief that he has no more hope of a peaceful adjustment of the Abyssinian difficulty.

8. To-day I have received a letter from Mr. Flad, wherein he informs me of a conversation he has had with the King about the coercive measures Her Majesty's Government have been obliged to adopt in consequence of his obstinacy in giving no heed to their friendly representations. I subjoin a copy of what was said upon the subject, for your information.

9. I am glad to be able to report that both my fellow prisoners and myself are well.

I have, &c.,

H. RASSAM.

N.B.—The conversation between the King and Mr. Flad referred to above will appear below, in the copy of Mr. Flad's letter to Mr. Rassam.

Enclosure received with above, namely copy of Mr. Rassam's letter to Lord Stanley, referred to in above letter.

My Lord, Magdala, 11th February 1868.

I take this liberty to trouble your Lordship about a matter which I would have rather left for explanation until my return to England, had not the critical position of my fellow prisoners and myself necessitated my doing so at once.

2. Doubtless, your Lordship has heard by this time through Colonel Merewether, that for certain important reasons I have been compelled to destroy the ultimatum sent by you in August last to the King of Abyssinia, because it was apprehended lest its receipt might enrage our captor and cause him to resort to such acts as would be both injurious to our safety and detrimental to the very object Her Majesty's Government have in view.

3. The ultimatum in question reached me accidentally on the 15th December last, as the messenger who carried it was afraid to venture to the royal camp, and so he came to me with it for advice.

4. It has been the general opinion of both Europeans and Abyssinians in this country who know the temper of Theodorus well that an ultimatum at this juncture cannot possibly do any good, but on the contrary it may cost the messenger his life, and endanger our safety, which both my fellow captives and myself are sure it is the most sincere object of Her Majesty's Government to avoid. On this account, therefore, I have taken upon myself the responsibility of doing away with the letter above alluded to. I should have never had recourse to this grave act had I not been in this difficult position.

5. Your Lordship is aware that the King has never replied to Her Majesty's letter of the 4th October 1866, nor has he answered any of Colonel Merewether's communications. He merely referred the Royal letter to me, and said that he would consult about it when he met me. It is now more than a year since he alluded to it.

6. With the report which I had the honour of submitting to your Lordship in January of last year, I forwarded a translation of a letter I had received from the King, wherein he said positively that he would not release me until he had obtained his object. Since then, he has determined to treat all communications received from the coast with contempt.

7. Even if he had the power to send us to meet the army, his taking us down himself is out of the question: he would certainly never allow us to move a mile by peaceful measures. It is against his nature to do what is reasonable.

8. He has now scarcely a district which he can call his own, excepting where he happens to be. Owing to his old prestige, he is able to go through the whole length and breadth of Abyssinia, and no chief rebel would dare to attack him with twenty times as many soldiers as he now has with him. It is said that his cannons and mortars, which are only made for show, frighten the rebel forces.

9. I trust that, after the above explanation, your Lordship will pardon me for what I considered an act of necessity, and not lay it to my charge that I took that step without mature deliberation as to its gravity.

10. One of the petty rebel Chiefs in Lasta, who protects my messengers on their way between the coast and this, has sent to inform me that he had stopped a messenger who was conveying a letter from the British camp to the King of Abyssinia, and asked me for orders as to their disposal.

I have directed him to send back both the messenger and the letter to our camp with the bearer of this report.

11. The only hope we have now that the King will not treat us roughly, when he hears of the approach of our troops, is the friendship which he always professes to have towards me. On several occasions he declared publicly that the only reason for his having chained me with my companions, Dr. Blanc and Mr. Prideaux, was to compel England to give him what he required. It is now plainly known that his demands would have had no end if the artisans had been sent up to him.

12. What we all now dread is the possibility of his taking it into his head to remove us from this place to his camp, and, when he finds himself in danger of being seized, and he has time to escape, he would take us with him to his native district, Quara, and keep us in some stronghold in the lowland (where it is very unhealthy) in order that he might prolong the struggle, whereby he presumes he could make better terms.

H. RASSAM.

No. 2.

Mr. RASSAM to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 17th February 1868.

Yesterday three messengers arrived with 513 dollars. Kindly send us some more money as soon as possible by the bearer. The Emperor has reached Dalanta safely, with all his cannons and mortars, a feat which certainly His Majesty ought to be very proud of. He sent to say that he will soon see us. Both my fellow prisoners and myself are well.

H. RASSAM.

No. 3.

The same to the same.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 16th February 1868.

On the 11th instant I forwarded a letter to Lord Stanley through you, wherein I explained to him my reasons for not allowing the ultimatum to reach its destination, and I wrote and informed you at the same time of the current news. Enclosed herewith you will find a letter addressed to Sir R. Napier, which I deemed it necessary to write on the subject of my detaining his ultimatum from reaching our friend for the present. I hope that both he and yourself will approve of my conduct, seeing that I am placed in a most difficult position. Kindly, if you are obliged to communicate with Bob, don't let an Amharic translation be sent with the English letter, because some expressions may be used which will not suit the temper of our captor. There can be no better translator than Mr. Flad, and, if an English letter be sent, he will translate it most faithfully, and yet he would use such words as not to incense the cupidity of the despot. The translation which accompanied Sir R. Napier's letter has been translated in such a way as it would have certainly got us into a mess. I have shown it to different learned Abyssinians, who begged and entreated me not to send it, as it would spoil everything. I send Choorie back with the bearer of this, Galja, and I hope that you will kindly allow him to receive his promised pay in full. The messenger who brought me Lord Stanley's ultimatum in December informed me the other day, when he was sent back with letters hither, that M. Munzinger refused to pay him the 50 dollars which I wrote to you about in my letter of the 15th or 16th of December. * * * (Money matters.) The King has at last reached Dalanta, with all his cannons and mortars. On the 14th instant, I received the following message from him:—"How are you, &c. You and I have always been friends, but the people of your country (Government) have made fools of you and me; in a few days I shall be in Dalanta, when I hope to communicate to you what I know."

He means that while he and I were humbugging each other, Her Majesty's Government have sent a military expedition against him. This message has also another meaning, which is, that, while the King and I were on amicable terms, the people of my country (fellow captives) had been writing against him, and befooled us both by enticing the British Government to use coercive measures against him. Yesterday morning I received another message from the King, apprising me of his having arrived safely in Dalanta. They fired a salute here in honour of the great guns having reached the plateau without any mishap. He has now the valley of the Bichilo to cross. It is said that the descent and ascent of this valley are as difficult as those of Jedda, so the King is not expected to reach Magdala with the guns and mortars before the end of next month. I believe that we shall see him before long. He will either send for us, or come and pay us a short visit here. In either case, I think he will try to reconcile himself to us. Aito Samuel has not been sent for by "Bob," but to-morrow I intend to send one of my interpreters with a letter to him to congratulate him upon his safe arrival in Dalanta. Three messengers have at last arrived with money, &c. * * I send you herewith Mr. Flad's letter. * * I am thankful to say that both my fellow prisoners and myself are well.

H. RASSAM.

P.S. Domestic references.

Enclosure received with above, viz., Letter from Mr. Flad to Mr. Rassam.

Dear Sir,

Dalanta, 11th February 1868.

Many thanks for the news you had the kindness to give me by your late letter. You will be glad to hear that His Majesty on last Friday informed Mr. Waldemayer that he had received news from the coast that the English had disembarked at Zoulla. And on Saturday morning he called me aside, and told me "The people of whom you brought me a letter, and of whom you said that they will come, have arrived and disembarked at Zoulla, and they are coming up by the salt plain,—why did they not choose a better road, that road by the salt plain is very unhealthy."

I said that "They bring their troops from India, and could not take a better road than this; from the sea coast they would, in three or four days, reach the Alps of Agamé, and that with very little difficulties, as already, at the time of King Vazil the Portuguese had made a road up, and the salt plain they would leave to their left." He then said, "We are making roads, and what will it be to them, but playing, to make roads everywhere. Well, it seems to me to be the will of God that they come. If He who is above us does not kill me, none will kill me, and if He says you must die, none can save me; remember the history of Hezekias and Sennacherib." His Majesty did not say more, but this he said most calmly. To-day he said to Mr. W. S. M. and Bender, "I long for the day on which I shall have the pleasure to see a disciplined European army. I am like Simeon, who could rejoice having the Saviour in his arms, but he was old and died, and I am old too, but I hope God will spare me to see them. I am no more proud of my soldiers, we are nothing in comparison to a disciplined army, where thousands of men act on the command of one man."

On Friday he said to Mr. W., "We have a prophecy that the time will come when a European king will meet with an Abyssinian king in this country, and after this time a great king will reign in Abyssinia, as great as none will have been before him; this time has come, but I don't know whether I shall be that great king or some one else."

From all he now and then says, the Europeans here make their conclusion that he is glad that they come, and that he thinks only of a reconciliation, and that nothing is to be feared for any European in his hands. From a man of his interior I learned that last Sunday he received news that the English are somewhere about Adowa or closer hither. Since Saturday he was rather in haste to get up here. It is remarked how kind his general officers are at present towards every European. The matter gets from day to day more known here in the camp. My only wish is that they would come on as quick as possible. I have no doubt that he received the first letter from the coast about the time when we were taken for one night before Dshedsheho. With regard to your questions about my report to Lord Clarendon, I gave a full account of everything that took place from the very first beginning at Gondar up to Segire when I left. If I remember well, I said in the beginning of my report that as your position was such that you could not write as you wished; you had asked me to give a full account of what had taken place. I stated also that you had to read your letter you sent by me to the Europeans and to Aito Samuel, and that they translated it to His Majesty. I also said that Her Majesty's Government could not have sent a man more suitable for settling the matter peaceably than you, and that your not succeeding in your mission was not owing to your deficiency, but that it came partly from His Majesty's suspicions and partly from bad influence. About your letter I said the same to the Colonel, to Colonel Stanton, and to Mr. Hammond. I did not take the part of any, but stated the mere facts that had occurred, breaking my head in accusing the Government of having given the cause to the King for quarrelling with us by not giving an answer to the King's letter. I said, if the English Government, like the French Government, would have sent an answer, their Consul never would have been chained, and even Mr. Stern, with all the missionaries, would have been allowed to leave the country like the French Consul. It is strange how little people in Europe know of the character of a despot. Enough for to-day. I think we shall soon have the pleasure of talking together. * * *

Yours, &c.,
T. M. FLAD.

No. 4.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 16th February 1868.

The Commander-in-Chief's splendid letter arrived here the day before yesterday. The messenger to whom you had entrusted it, afraid of the consequences, should he deliver it to His "Majesty" handed it over to us. It was quite a treat to listen again to such straightforward manly language. My pulse throbbed fast and quick at the delightful thought that at last a British General had torn asunder the veil of false humility for so long concealing the bold haughty blood of England; and I felt, even in my captivity, happy and proud at the conviction that the hour had come when right and might would scorn at deceit and treachery. The Chief's letter would, I believe, have been forwarded yesterday morning, when letters were received from Mr. Flad, informing us that His Majesty is since some time already aware of the landing of English troops, and that, from his conversation with him (Mr. Flad) and with some of the European workmen, it appears, for the present at least, that His Majesty, far from being displeased, is rather rejoiced at the idea. It was, in consequence, decided to await future events, keeping His Excellency's firm and dignified letter as a powerful weapon to use if circumstances require. After all, it was,

perhaps, better that the letter was brought to us instead of reaching the rightful owner, for the following reason. There is no doubt that the English letter, had His Majesty been unfavourably disposed towards us, would have been of incalculable advantage, spared us much misery, perhaps saved our lives. But the Amharic translation is too strong, specially the last paragraph. This part of the Amharic letter left His Majesty absolutely no hope; whatever he did, he was beforehand condemned. Moreover, with a man of Theodore's temper, facts in all their bluntness will not affect him so much as a misapplied expression. Should it, therefore, be deemed expedient to write to him again, it is preferable to do so in English only; he will, in that case, either send us the letter for translation, or hand it over for the same purpose to His European workmen. In both instances, great care would be taken to soften down any harsh expression that might possibly drive him to despair and to extremities. As matters at present stand, it would perhaps be better to leave him as long as possible under the impression that all will end well, and well for him; to let him indulge in his dreams of greatness, and, as long as he does not hurt us, not to disturb his conceit. Advance on him and surround him, and when he is in your power he must yield, whatever the cost may be. Then you can boldly demand the unconditional surrender of the prisoners, avenge and uphold the dignity of England, without danger to the captives. We are now fortunately in possession, and can avail ourselves when necessary of the Commander-in-Chief's letter (a document so complete that not another word is necessary); therefore (unnecessary boldness) facts, not talk, is what we urgently require. Aware of the temper and character of His Majesty, I would fear that, if he considered himself lost beyond hope, despair would drive him to seek for safety in flight, and our doom would be sealed. Be firm with him, but always show him how, by his good or bad treatment of the prisoners in his hands, he influences his own fate. In short, in my humble opinion, taking into consideration the quiet way in which he received the news of your landing, the best plan is not to irritate him by threats, nor to reveal too clearly what the future may hold in reserve for him, but advance as promptly and quickly as possible. It is generally believed, both by Europeans and Natives, that in a few days most, if not all, at least the officials, will be called to the King's camp in Dalanta. It is no cheering prospect, but, should the mission alone be invited, I would have no fears, as His Majesty bears no personal enmity towards us, nor do we bring back to his mind former offences that always excite his anger. It is now too late, I am afraid, to cut him off, or deliver us from the Amba, before we fall again into his hands; but you are still in time to place yourself in such a position as to enforce your commands. Pray bear in mind that His Majesty is very apt to change,—friendly to-day, a bitter foe to-morrow. Who can tell what his views will be on the affair at any moment? Nothing can possibly ensure our safety but celerity and rapidity in your movements. Long before this, you must have acknowledged the correctness of our assertions regarding the cowardice of the Natives, their willingness to receive you as liberators, and that, from one end of the land to the other, you will never meet with any opposition. Do not, at the eleventh hour, afford your opponent the opportunity of disposing of us, or dragging us with him through the low country, and wrest the prize you already hold in your own hands. A week, nay, a day, can make all the difference. If I had a voice in the matter, I would venture to say, leave in some convenient depôt all your heavy baggage, your cumbrous war material, useless burdens against semi-armed savages, that will not fight, and march on. Success and fame will then be your reward, and the Abyssinian expedition will not only be an object of honour and praise to the leaders, but will be remembered by all Englishmen with the same pleasure as the days of Plassy and the deeds of Clive and Wellesley. A last word. At the present juncture it is perhaps advisable, apart from being on friendly terms, to have as little to do as possible with the rebels. Above all things, they ought not to be allowed, especially Wagshoom, to accompany you.

I am, &c.,
H. BLANC.

Copy of Précis of Information contained in the preceding prepared for public information.

10th March 1868.

News has been received of the Europeans in Magdala up to the 17th February, and of those in the King's camp up to 11th February. At those dates, all were well. Theodorus had reached Dalanta safely, with all his cannons and mortars. He has now the valley of the Bichilo to cross. It is said that this valley presents a descent and ascent as difficult as those of the Jedda valley, which he has just crossed, and that he is not likely to reach Magdala, with his guns and mortars, before the end of March. The news that a British force is on its march to Magdala becomes more and more talked of from day to day in the King's camp, and Theodore himself makes no secret of information having reached him of our movements. He still, however, gives no indication of what policy he means to pursue. He continues to treat all the prisoners with less severity than formerly.

No. 43.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 20th April 1868).

Political Department, No. 17.

Commander-in-Chief's Office,
Lake Ashangi, 19th March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

In continuation of my Despatch, No. 16, dated 16th instant, I have the honour to forward, for your information, copies of further letters received on the 17th instant from the European prisoners in Magdalla, together with a précis of their contents.

2. A précis of reports received from Mr. Munzinger, on his mission to Wagshoom Gobazeh, the Ruler of Lasta, is also forwarded for your information.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosures in No. 43.

Copies of Letters from the European prisoners in Magdala, received in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's Camp at Mahkan, on the 17th March 1868.

No. 1.

Mr. RASSAM to Colonel MEREWETHER, C.B.

My dear Colonel,

Magdalla, 3d March 1868.

The morning the last messengers left this for the coast (on the 17th ult.), the road was quite blocked up between this place and Dalanta, because our friend "Bob" had rewarded the inhabitants of that district with his wonted gratitude, in dispossessing of their property. The people fought very bravely in protecting their families and our agent's clan, in particular, defied the royal troops in front of the great monarch, and disputed every inch of ground with them. Our messenger had a narrow escape, because, had they started hence as early as I wished them, on the 17th of last month, they would have reached Talanta before the row ended. As luck would have it, they heard of the royal displeasure, just as they were going to cross the Bichilo river, and as our faithful guides took them by a different road to the territory of Wagshoom Gobazeh, whence they came escorted through Lasta by that Chief's men. Godja and Choori, who carried these letters of the 17th February, would give you a better account of the plunder of Dalanta than we could from here, as they passed that district the day it was plundered. On that same day the King sent orders to the Chiefs of this mountain not to allow any one to go to his camp hence, and he has also stopped all communications with this garrison, for what reason no one can make out. He has been busily engaged for the last ten days in repairing the road down the Bichilo, and he is expected to be moving down daily. It is said that it will not take him more than three days to reach the bed of the river, and once he is there he can come here in three hours, see his friends and enemies, and return to his work every day without any difficulty. The enclosed letter from Mrs. Flad will give you the current news in the royal camp. It is supposed that one of Sir R. Napier's proclamations (in Amharic) has reached His Majesty. I am glad to inform you that another instalment of 987 dollars has reached me safely. * * (Money references). Wagshoom Gobazeh has gone to Begemeder to settle, as it is surmised, the country. I believe he has moved thither for the purpose of avoiding coming into clash with the British troops. All my fellow captives and myself are well. We are all looking anxiously for your arrival. I hope it will not be long before I shall have the pleasure of seeing you. * * (Remembrances.)

H. RASSAM.

P.S.—The King has just been seen (1 o'clock, p.m.) through a telescope, to be moving down the Bichilo. I send Oobi and Falakeh with these letters.—H. R.

Enclosure to above, viz., Letter from Mrs. Flad to Mr. Rassam, dated Dalanta Plain, near the verge of the Bichilo.

Dear Sir,

24th February 1868.

My husband told me, ere going away for this night, to keep a small letter ready, as His Majesty's messenger, Gobra Yasoos, expects to be sent to the fortress either to-morrow or after to-morrow. You will, no doubt, have heard of the King's going on here; by the plundering of Talanta we are again plunged into many troubles. What a day of anxiety we passed last Monday week, when we expected our boy Teckoo back from the fortress, and were afraid lest he might fall into the hands of the soldiers; but we trust he is still there, at Magdala, awaiting a safe opportunity

to come here. Yesterday we came here, quite near the borders of the Bichilo; and the King has immediately set his soldiers to begin to clear the road; to-day they have got down a piece. As much as His Majesty has himself communicated to Mr. W., it appears that he only means to send his heavy cannon and bombs over to Magdalla, and that a great deal of the grain plundered here is also going over to provide the mountain. If this should prove true, it is quite as sure that His Majesty will unload himself of the encumbering number of the Europeans and their families here, and will send them there to. We had been enjoying a comparative rest for the last two weeks, and children were soon better in the wholesome air of the place up here, though we had thunderstorms and heavy rain and hailstones for more than a week, when, all unexpected, a storm of another nature arose; it was Wednesday last, early in the morning, the Europeans were all called to the King's place. They all thought it was for drawing the cannons, for we had been early told to prepare for a road that day. But soon I got information by my servant, who had followed my husband to the Adde-ba-bag, and who stole home in fright, that His Majesty was in one of his most awful moods, that he was questioning the Europeans about the approach of the English army, that he was especially angry with Mr. Walden for having sent him by an Abyssinian unasked-for advice, &c.; that he was going up and down with his spear, like one frantic. I prepared to hear that the next news I would get would be that my husband was in chains, and set out with my children to the place of our destination; when, after some time of our arrival there, my husband came and told me the whole. It would appear that Mr. W. really has been talking something in the shape of advice, and wishing it to get indirectly to the King (though he himself denies it). It was striking to my husband that he was addressed by His Majesty with as much civility as could be expected at such awful moments:—"Couldn't I get better information and advice from Aito Flad, whom I had sent for it," he said. The Europeans were not chained, as he had expected, but were told to help to drag the cannons, and then they might go and spend the daytime with their families, and come before dark into a tent put up for them not far from His Majesty's tent. Mr. Waldemir alone was told to accompany His Majesty wherever he went, even into the foundry. Mr. Schimper and Mr. Kelvie are the only ones that are allowed to remain at home at night; the former on consideration of his old age, the latter on his still being ill with dysentery. Mr. W., though he has been abused by his royal master with most odious abuse, some of which our European ideas of propriety would even forbid me to mention, bears no malice in his great magnanimous heart. It is fortunate for him that he is not gifted with such an irritable bilious system as some other persons are possessed with. But, to wonder at the whole, he seems to enjoy a greater share of favour from his royal master than before this. We have not any hope that the present state of things would change again, much more it is possible that an expedition would get more troublesome. The approach of the English troops is no more doubted of among the soldiers; there is general fear, not only men, but the very ground under their feet trembles, says report. A native priest told us these days that the King has recently got a letter from the English General, in which he urges, in the name of his Queen, that the King Theodore should take care no harm should be done to any of the Europeans in his power, or else "baggo nagger, I mattem," (*i.e.*, "it will be ill for him"). We long, with the greatest possible suspense, for news and for rest. Oh, how gladly should I go over to the fortress; but the Lord, into whose gracious care we more especially recommend ourselves now, will direct things well. I am sure I should have liked to write a letter to Mrs. Staiger, and Brandis, but I cannot this time. * * *

(Remembrances and pecuniary references.) * * *

FLAD.

No. 2.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdalla, 3d March 1868.

There is no country like Abyssinia where the saying 'Trust not in to-morrow' is so well exemplified. We thought that long before this we would have been residing in His Majesty's camp, or that we would have had the pleasure of receiving his visit. Instead of such natural events, the very day our last messengers left we were startled by the news that His Majesty had plundered Dalanta. At first, the most exaggerated rumours, since contradicted, were circulated about. It was whispered among the faithful garrison that the peasants had made a serious resistance, had slaughtered numbers of the treacherous host, and killed hundreds of the gunners with the very weapons they had wrested from their opponents' hands. However, I had serious doubts regarding the valour of the Abyssinian, and the latest news confirmed my views; as usual, His Majesty had to deal with sheep, not with lions. Saturday week we were informed that, from the Amba, His Majesty's tents were seen pitched on the southern ridge of the Dalanta plateau, near a plain called Bappa; and, the next day, the Chiefs were rejoiced at the sight of working parties repairing the road down the Bichilo. However, on account of the large number of homeless peasants and Chiefs lying in ambush in the valley of the Bichilo, communications between the imperial camp and this Amba have since been interrupted, and no messenger from the King has been able to reach for the last eighteen days. A lad of ours volunteered to go to the camp with a note for Flad. He was fortunate in his attempt, and yesterday returned with letters from Flad (mine I enclose for your perusal), and with more correct information concerning His Majesty's doings and dealings towards the Europeans than we were before in possession of. It appears that no fighting took place in Dalanta; a few stray soldiers were killed, but the peasants suffered more; a large number, including many Chiefs, were made prisoners; up to now they have been chained, none have been executed or burned. His Majesty evidently took the people by surprise, and was therefore very successful in his

plunder; the camp is now well supplied with grain and cattle. It is probable, from the report of our messenger, that some paper of yours, either a copy of the proclamation, or of Sir R. Napier's letter, has some days ago reached His Majesty, as all of a sudden he changed his demeanour towards the European workmen; from intimate friends and pioneers, they were looked upon with suspicion, and, though part of the imperial train, were not allowed to work. Mr. Waldemir, it appears, told one of his guards that, if His Majesty did not make friends with the English, he would be a fool, as he had not a friend in the country. The soldier, probably a spy, reported the conversation to His Majesty. Thereupon His Majesty, in a fearful passion, called all the Europeans before him, and abused Waldemir in no measured terms. He told him, or words to that effect, that he was a dog, a donkey, a poor man from far country, who had come to be his slave, and who had been paid, clad, and fed by him for years. "What do you know about my affairs, a beggar like you? wilt you dictate to me what I have to do? A king is coming to eat with a king; what do you know about such matters?" His Majesty, all the while in a violent passion, kept walking in front of the terrified Europeans, but, though he seemed ready to proceed to extremities, shaking the lance with rage, still he restrained himself, and allowed them to depart unmolested to their homes. Since then, at night, they have been carefully watched, though the two principal offenders, Waldemir and Gender, have been reconciled with him. His Majesty is hard at work repairing the road down the Bichilo; some say that he will reach the valley below in a few days; others, that he cannot possibly drag down dear "Sebastopol" before a matter of three weeks or so. Once below, the peasants in arms will return to Dalanta, and he will be able anew to send messengers to this Amba, send for us, or come himself to pay us a visit. We are quite in the dark as to your movements. We feel very anxious, consequently, as to the events of the next few weeks; will it be the cheering sound of the bugle, or the inharmonious war song of the Amhara "warrior?" It is difficult to say; from all appearance, it will be rather a close race between the black mare and the white charger.

* * * (Private references about cigars, &c.)

BLANC.

Enclosure to the above; viz., from Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM, dated 1st March 1868.

My dear Sir,

Many thanks for your messenger. It is a great release to us both to know of you that you are all well; but the poor fellow, if taken, would have had to suffer for it. Give him one dollar, "bakhshish," on my account. Last Wednesday week, Mr. Waldemir and Mr. Zender have been severely abused by His Majesty, and all of us have been watched. In the day time we are allowed to remain in our tents, or ordered to accompany His Majesty in his making a road down to the Bichilo, but forbidden to work. In the nights, all of us, except Mr. Schimper and Kelvie, have to sleep in one of His Majesty's tents, where we have a guard inside and outside, but are treated polite. His Majesty reconciled himself with Messrs. Waldemir and Kander, and flatters them and Messrs. Saalmuller and Bender more than ever. He openly speaks of the coming of our friends, even before his soldiers. Sometimes he appears to have an intention of fighting with them; but frequently he speaks in a reconciliatory way of the matter. A long time he never mentioned any name of yours, except Mr. Stern's, but not in an angry mood. Mrs. Flad and her letter are frequently quoted, "that if the English and French would come he would not fear," as he makes now the expression, "and," says he, "I don't fear." We have to pray earnestly to God, that he keep away from us any violent hand. It is not known whether he is going to the mountain or not. Some say, he will await them here, and we should be glad if he would do so. There is no fear that he will harm any one of you or us, but hours and days of horror and anguish will come for us. Mrs. Flad suffered very much from a cold and cough. For her own sake, I wish she would be with you, as you would be with us. The Lord's will be done.

T. M. FLAD.

P.S. Be careful with Aito Samuel and other servants of His Majesty.

Précis of latest Information received from Magdala and its vicinity.

News has been received from Magdala up to 3rd March, and from the King's camp up to the 1st March, at which dates all were well. Later intelligence has reached us through M. Munzinger, who had been sent to open friendly communications with Wagshoom Gobazeh. On the 13th instant, M. Munzinger was with the army of that Prince, which was encamped within sight of the mountains around Magdalla. Wagshoom Gobazeh himself, was in a different part of the country, but the commander of his army had received M. Munzinger very well.

Theodore had succeeded in conveying his guns and baggage to a spot about five miles from Magdala. He had excited the resentment of the people of Talanta by plundering that district wholesale. The Wollo Galla tribes had assembled in numbers in his vicinity, but had not ventured on open attack. It was believed to be his intention to send his guns, together with a large quantity of the grain he had obtained by the plunder of Talanta, into Magdala. Some of his European workmen, whom he has hitherto treated as friends, have lately fallen under his suspicion, and he no longer allows them to work as before. All the prisoners in his camp are watched and guarded more strictly than ever. The King openly speaks, even before his soldiers, of the coming of our army, but his plans, if he have any, remain impenetrable. It is not even known whether he is going to throw himself into Magdalla, or await where he is the coming of our column. A general impression prevails throughout the country that he will fight.

The Azuba Galla tribes have sent many messengers to the Commander-in-Chief's camp with friendly assurances.

Everything promises well.

Camp Ashangee, 18th March 1868.

W. TWEEDIE, Lieutenant,
Political Secretary.

Précis of Reports received from M. Munzinger on his mission from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's Camp, to Wagshoom Gobazeh, the Ruler of Lasta.

No. I. Namely, from his leaving His Excellency's camp at Antalo to his arriving at Cosso Amba, near Magdallah.

1. On the 13th March, M. Munzinger, after crossing the River Tecazze, which he found quite shallow, had reached Cosso Amba, a district so called, situated on the heights of Dalanta. Magdalla itself could not be seen from where he was, but the high line of the Wollo hills which surround it was visible.

2. Theodore had at that date crossed the Bichilo River, and was encamped about five miles from Magdallah. He was sending his baggage into the fortress. The Muhammadan Wallo Galla tribes had assembled in numbers in his neighbourhood, but all they had attempted against him was to kill some of his camp followers, and plunder.

3. The junction of the King with the Magdallah garrison is reported by M. Munzinger to be now an accomplished fact. Wagshoom Gobazeh's power extends to Kosso Amba, but the Prince himself has gone to Begemeder. He is represented in Lasta by the Dejaz Meshasha, with whom M. Munzinger is living. The Dejaz has with him an army of some hundreds of horse, whose numbers are every day increasing. When M. Munzinger joined him, he was closing towards Theodore's rear, and invited M. Munzinger to accompany him, which he did, though not without a conviction that, if Theodore should turn back suddenly, a rapid retreat would take place on the part of the Dajaz.

4. It was not expected that any attack upon Theodore would be attempted. The latter's old prestige still clings to him. Some say that the guns he has with him are the secret of his prestige. M. Munzinger suspects that these are merely put forward as a pretext by those afraid, under any circumstances, to attack him.

5. The Dejaz Meshasha himself met M. Munzinger at the Tecazze River, conducted him to his own tent, and has since treated him in the most friendly manner. M. Munzinger has written to Wagshoom Gobazeh himself, telling him of his arrival, and suggesting his return to Lasta to meet our army. M. Munzinger believes that his appearance has caused much satisfaction among the people. He gives it as his impression that Theodore is too much surrounded by enemies to escape to Kuara.

6. One of the Chiefs of the Azuba Gallas, to whom had reached the friendly letter addressed to those tribes, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, from Senafé, joined M. Munzinger as he passed through his country, bearing a letter to His Excellency of a friendly kind, and assuring M. Munzinger that the Azuba Gallas are everywhere ready to welcome us, and have enjoined their people, by proclamation, to bring us supplies.

7. Dajaz Waldee Yasoos, another of the Abyssinian Chiefs who had been communicated with beforehand by His Excellency's order, also met M. Munzinger on his route, and received him well while in his province of Wodjerat. Nevertheless, M. Munzinger formed an unfavourable opinion of this Chief, and describes him as "clever, but light-headed, variable, and deficient in courage," adding, that if he had more energy and ambition he might be now what Kassa is. He was formerly, M. Munzinger continues, a partisan of Theodore. When Kassa rebelled against Gobazeh, and declared himself the subject of Theodore, then Waldee Yasoos gave Kassa his moral support. But now that Kassa has become Master of Tigré, the situation, according to M. Munzinger's views, is changed, inasmuch as he believes there still exists a blood enmity between the houses of Kassa and Waldee Yasoos, the latter having some years ago killed a brother of the former. Therefore, it is supposed that Waldee Yasoos has, of his two enemies, selected Gobazeh as the one more easily appeased. But Gobazeh has married the sister of Kassa, and M. Munzinger observes that should Gobazeh and Kassa effect a reconciliation, it may fare ill with Waldee Yasoos, in spite of all his "trimming policy."

8. M. Munzinger reports that Waldee Yasoos has 586 followers, armed with guns, and his younger brother about 250, similarly armed. He calculates that they could bring at least 1,500 men to battle. The Chief spends most of his time on his stronghold of Allajee.

9. M. Munzinger found that the news of our good treatment of the natives had preceded us, and had produced a favourable impression regarding us.

10. After he had joined Dejaz Meshasha's camp, three Talanta Chiefs arrived there, fresh from Theodore's army, which they had deserted because they had seen their relations in fetters.

W. TWEEDIE, Lieutenant,
Political Secretary.

Notes by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

1. The country of Waldee Yasoos may be considered the Belgium of Abyssinia, between two powerful neighbours, and the Chief must have a hard task to determine which is the ally best able to defend him.

Not long ago, Gobazeh ravaged his country because he was a tributary of Tigré. Gobazeh being in the ascendant, Waldee Yasoos tendered his allegiance to him as the strongest party.

Recently, Gobazeh having his hands full with Theodore, Kassa would have taken the opportunity to recover possession of his revolted subject, but as such hostilities on our line of communication would be most inconvenient, I requested Kassa to forbear for the present, and I trust, when our business shall have been satisfactorily concluded, that I may be able to persuade the rival Chiefs to make a peaceful adjustment of their claims.

2. It is to be borne in mind that a portion of the prisoners, together with all the women and children, were in Theodore's camp until he arrived near Magdalla, and that even if any attack upon Theodore's army before he reached Magdalla might have been conducive to the safety of the prisoners in the fortress, yet the lives of those in his camp would, in all probability, have been sacrificed in the conflict by the hands of the defeated soldiers of Theodore or by his own orders.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinian Expeditionary
Army.

No. 44.

TELEGRAMS.

STORMING OF MAGDALA.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 25th April).

Suez, 25th April 1868.

Head Quarters with first brigade at Sindé on 3d, second brigade at Abdicombe. Expresses received from the Chiefs of Talanta that Theodore was preparing to move. Sir Robert Napier crossed the Jedda by a forced march, and established himself on the plain of Talanta, 4th instant. Width of Jedda ravine from bank to bank, eight miles; ascent and descent on each side three thousand four hundred feet. Banks precipitous. Road made by Theodore very steep and difficult, partly destroyed by torrents, nearly impracticable. Rear guard arrived camp at twelve and a half noon, 5th. Second brigade marches to bed of Jedda on 6th.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 25th April).

Suez, 25th April 1868.

Beshilo, 9th April.—I hope to-morrow to take up position under Magdala, more formidable than anticipated. Country difficult. I have been detained three days, awaiting coming of troops, and collecting provisions. Provisions now coming in freely from neighbourhood of Talanta. I have written to Theodore; no reply received: belief general that he will fight. All well.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 25th April).

Suez, 25th April 1868.

An engagement took place before Magdala on Good Friday between our troops and the army of Theodore, in which the latter was defeated with heavy loss. Casualties on our side, Captain Roberts, 4th Foot, wounded in arm, and fifteen rank and file wounded. No one killed. On the two following days, Theodore sent into our camp every European that he had in his power, both captives and employés. Theodore has not yet surrendered himself, according to my demand; he has been given twenty-four hours to decide. The King's troops are completely demoralized.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 26th April).

Suez, 25th April 1868.

14th April.—Theodore's army much disheartened by the severe losses of the 10th instant. A portion of the Chiefs surrendered the most formidable position of Shilasse,

and many thousand fighting men laid down their arms. Theodore retired to Magdala with all who remained faithful. Magdala taken by assault on the 13th, under cover of Armstrongs, steel guns, eight-inch mortars, and rocket battery. Ascent to gates most formidable. Theodore killed, defending to the last. Our losses small. Army will return immediately. About 30 guns and mortars taken.

No. 45.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 27th April).

Political, No. 18.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp Lat,
22d March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for your information, copies of letters received from Magdala yesterday, together with *précis* of their contents, and *resumé* of additional information communicated by M. Munzinger, who at the date of writing was in Talenta, at a spot about five miles south of the Jedda river.

2. I move to-morrow with a light column, leaving all its baggage and the Head Quarters office establishments to follow at some distance in rear with the 2d Brigade. This may make it difficult for the usual amount of correspondence to be maintained during the next few weeks.

3. My progress will depend to some extent on the obstacles which the country may present to our advance. But, as even our tents will now be left behind, excepting in the proportion of one small bell tent for 12 Officers, and a similar one for 20 men, every possible endeavour may be said to have been made to lighten the advanced force of its encumbrances, and we may hope to be before Magdala in the course of a week or ten days.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosures.

Copies of Letters received from Magdala in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's camp on the 21st March 1868, a few miles on the Magdala side of Lake Ashangee.

No. 1.

Mr. RASSAM to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 9th March 1868.

I have very little to say this time, but as you are nearing us now, I think it advisable to send and let you know that our friend has not yet joined us, and he is not expected to do so for the next fortnight. He has not yet brought down his guns and big mortar to the bed of the Bichilo, though his pioneers are now encamping on the ascent near us. On the 5th instant, the communication between the royal camp and this was opened, when I was enabled to send the King the letter which I had written to him on the 17th ultimo. The following were the contents:—"I return your Majesty my best thanks for your kind message about your safe arrival at Babba in Dalanta, with the large cannons and mortar. I hope also that you will cross the valley of the Bichilo without much trouble; and that I shall have the pleasure of meeting you before long. Compliments, &c." My messenger was received well; and on the 6th idem His Majesty sent me the following answer. After compliments to all, he says to me; "By the power of God be of good cheer; the time of our meeting is approaching." I now receive polite messages from him every day. On the 7th he sent Mrs. Flad here with her children, for her accouchement, which is expected in a few days. Mr. Flad asked the King to send her here, but he remains with His Majesty to assist in repairing the road. She now lives outside my hedge, in accordance with Bob's orders, in order that she may be able to come and see us when she likes, and that Mrs. Rosenthal may also go and see her. So you see we are on the increase. Your letters to the Chiefs of Dalanta, Daoont, and the Wollo Gallas I have not forwarded, as the two former districts are now quite abandoned on account of the presence of Bob in their vicinity; and the Islams of the latter are now divided into a great number of factions, and fighting against each other. Before the *soi-disant* King of Shoa came to this neighbourhood, the Wollo had only one Chief; but that infatuated boy brought two other Chiefs with him, left them in the country without settling the disputes of the contending parties properly, and returned to his country. Hence these disorders. Had he only remained below Magdala a week longer, the chances are he would have gained his desired object, which he wished to obtain, by just showing himself on the plateau opposite. Your letter of the 31st January is an admirable one to show to our mutual friend, as he will find therefrom that the sender of the telescope means nothing but friendship. What a happy day it will be when we hear the bugle sounding, and the dear friend is not with us. I feel quite happy to-day, as I think the joyful day of our deliverance is fast approaching. This

last word makes me shudder, as it has been mentioned by you know whom I mean (*vide* Theodore's message *supra*). I am thankful to say that both my fellow prisoners and myself are well.

Yours, &c.,

H. RASSAM.

P.S. Money matters.

Second Postscript 15th March.—The messengers who carried this note had to return to Magdala on the 10th instant, because they could not get through to Lasta on account of the great disturbance that took place between this and Talanta, amongst the wretched inhabitants of the latter district and the Wollo Gallas. Our agent had to decamp, but now he has returned to this neighbourhood, and has sent to say that he can now pass my messengers on as usual. I hope this time our messenger will have a better luck. I have now, nothing new of any moment to communicate. The guns and the great mortar have not yet been brought down to the bed of the Bichilo. I believe they will be brought over the water to-morrow. The King is not expected here with his wonderful artillery for a fortnight at the earliest. He continues his friendly messages to me, but it seems that his European "children" who are with him are in a bad plight and strictly watched.

H. R.

No. 2.

From the same to the same.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 15th March 1868.

After I closed my letter this morning, I remembered that I had a note from Mr. Flad to send to you for your perusal. I wrote and asked him if it would be advisable to send the ultimatum to the King. At first, he said it would be wise to send it, but on writing again and asking him if he thought it could do any good, he sent the enclosed note.

H. RASSAM.

Enclosure received with above. Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

Camp, 9th March 1868.

Many thanks for your note of yesterday and the news of Mrs. Flad's safe arrival on the mountain. I am glad to have her and the children out of this horrid camp life, and to know them there so near to you. We have no news here. His Majesty continuous in his polite manner towards every European here. Regarding the letter in question, my opinion is, that for the present, it will bring us no good, but may harm us a great deal and endanger our lives, and it will be better if it be sent by Sir R. Napier directly to His Majesty, when he with the troops is near the King and near us. There is no hope that your chains will be opened, or that any one will be allowed to leave his place before the arrival of the troops. There is no benefit to threaten him beforehand; they may do so when their troops are opposite to his troops. For the present, we have nothing to fear for our lives; but if Sir R. Napier will not hold out to him something flattering for his future, on condition that he delivers the Europeans safely over to him, all of us may be cut one day in as many pieces as human body has limbs. I think you do better to keep the letter, or you send it back to Sir Robert Napier. It will take us at least ten days or more before we reach the mountain, and, please God, until then our friends ought to reach also. I know that his Majesty is very anxious to consult you about the affair, therefore, I think it will be better if they send all their communications directly to him, so that you would be the person in the middle to negotiate on both sides. He frequently speaks to Mr. W., &c., of their coming; but about what he is going to do he never consulted them, and I think he never will consult them. Some days ago, he said, "I am ashamed of my soldiers, with their worn out dresses." Another time, he said, "If they who come, would only acknowledge me as a man, but they say that I am not a man" (human being). I need not ask you to assist Mrs. Flad and children, as I know that you are doing for them all in your power. It will be good and wise for her and all of us if she keeps quiet in her house. She may once visit you, but she ought not not to go in the houses of the others. If we reach before our friends arrive, we shall be joined with all of you.

T. M. FLAD.

No. 3.

From same to same.

My dear Colonel,

Magdalla, 15th March, 1868.

I have just received, two o'clock, p.m., the enclosed note from Mr. Flad, and as I think it most important that you should know all that the King says, I hasten to send it to you. I have also just received a polite letter from the King, wherein he informs me that he had crossed the Bichilo with all the guns. According to Mr. Flad's letter, we may see His Majesty here next week.

H. RASSAM.

Copy of Letter received with above. Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

15th March 1868.

I could not write to you in answer to your two last notes, as I have been out of my place day and night. His Majesty keeps us very close to him day and night. I am sorry that the thirty sheep taken could not have been got back. Yesterday evening we crossed, with the waggons, the

river Bichilo. In two or three days we shall reach Arogi. We have to be day and night near His Majesty; he is still polite to us. From peasants we learned yesterday evening that our friends have reached Wadela, and will come the road by Baet Hor. It would be good if they would reach us before we reach the mountain. Two days ago His Majesty said to Mr. Waldmayer, "with love and friendship they, the English, will (overcome) conquer me; but if they come otherwise, I know that they won't spare, and I shall make a blood bath and die." * * Domestic references.

T. M. FLAD.

No. 4.

Captain CAMERON to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel Merewether,

Magdalla, 13th March 1868.

The road between us seems pretty well closed, but as one of my lads seems to think that he can get through, I send him with a line to let you know that we are still unscathed. The King treats your coming very lightly. I believe, from what I hear, that he will try and make himself out to be a most injured individual, and manoeuvre to make something out of the affair on that ground. I don't much care what he does, as long as he lets us go in the long run. I am sick of this. It is wearing me out, body and soul. The Abyssinians all know of your being *en route* for this place, but don't care much. They were rather frightened at first. The fact is, that they laugh at your slowness. Of course they can't understand the causes that retard your movements. Trust me, that the sooner you are here the better. The news from the camp is not quite satisfactory. The King wishes at present to end the affair peaceably; but there are those about him who, I fear, may recommend the intimidation system, advise him, in short, to bully us in order to force you to re-establish him in his kingdom, their own position being desperate if he falls. I send you a gossiping note from Mrs. Flad. * * Flad is watching for our interests in the camp, and does his best to avert the mischief I have adverted to. But these black fellows are mere bedlamites, and the King such a mixture of rogue and madman, that the sooner we are out of his hands the better. Hoping soon to shake you by the hand, in spite of the devil and all his emissaries.

CAMERON.

Enclosure received with above. Mrs. FLAD to Messrs. STAIGER and BRANDEIS.

Dear Brothers,

Dalanta, 11th February 1868.

* * My husband and the others are now allowed, since a fortnight ago to pass the nights at home. * * The King seems now to be hurrying at a great rate. Yesterday he dragged his carts, &c., up a distance that would have commonly taken him three days to accomplish. For some time back he has not troubled the Europeans with quite so much work, still, they were obliged to be with him from daybreak till late in the evening, probably from mistrust. It will interest you to learn that Bob knows the secret, and, further, that he has imparted it to my husband, and, indeed, with a calmness, on such occasions astonishing in him. He maintained his usual doctrine of fatalism: "If He, up above, does not kill me, the English can do me no harm." On the 20th, also, he related that he had certain intelligence that the English had disembarked and were advancing. Still, he had mixed up several lies with this. As far as I can form an opinion, it is highly probable that he received the first news two months ago, when one night he summoned every one and abused them so fearfully. It would appear that he, at the time, had doubts of the truth. He has, as we believe, several times put out feelers, through the Abuna Maka, to pump my husband. As regards the Europeans, could the English under no circumstances have had time to come; every one is wearied with his position. W., indeed, acts as if he were incredulous. "It is not true," says he. But if it is difficult to say that all are together rejoiced; it is easy for one to be in dread of Bob. Only one place of refuge remains to him who has a clean conscience, the Lord's protection. * * The impression of almost every one is, that he thinks on making terms. God grant it! The soldiers must be in trouble. This much is certain, that many who were formerly extremely brutal, now begin to bear themselves courteously towards us. Several of the brethren here are of opinion that there may be endless negotiations, but I do not believe that the English will act as the shy man did when he met the thief, "Pardon me, but are not you Mr. Blackguard?" A few days ago came one of the King's servants, late in the evening, and began on this subject, "Has not the King gone too far? Would it not be as well if he sent a letter to the English? Would they not then remain away from our country, or turn back again from it?" and similar questions, which prove that people begin generally to comprehend that things are this time in downright earnest. Thereupon answered my husband, as also fearlessly to the King personally, that on his return from England he had openly told the King that war would come if he refused to deliver up the captives, but that it lay in his, the King's, power to draw, even yet, advantage to himself from the matter, if he treated Mr. Rassam and the other Europeans well, &c., but that he might rest assured that it would be to his greatest detriment if he touched any of them. That the English do not wish his country, but that they have been mocked before the whole of Europe, at any rate, that they would not rest nor turn back without accomplishing their end. * * Mr. Moritz is still a prisoner, and the King quite silent as to his offence.

H. FLAD.

No. 5.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

Magdalla, 9th March 1868.

Bob, like the last of the Mohicans, keeps on his war paint, the colour is pale, the coating of the mildest description, but still he sticks to it with a perseverance worthy of his former dress. Sebastopol, my idol, is still half way on the Bichilo descent, and it will be some days before that fine mass of copper will be safely landed to the bottom of the river. From that spot to the Abyssinian empire, viz., Magdala, it will take some ten or fifteen days. It makes, however, but little difference as far as we are concerned. Bob can come here any day—a couple of hours—no more, will reunite us to our beloved friend and guardian. Yesterday His Majesty has been gracious enough to pardon the people of Dalanta, and, what is perhaps better, he has released all the prisoners he made in his recent raid. Mrs. Flad arrived here yesterday. * * * Flad was wise enough to refuse to come to her. His Majesty is of a very suspicious character, as you well know, and might have suspected a trick. The Europeans still sleep at night in a tent near His Majesty, otherwise they are not ill treated; * * * but if you are not with us soon, all may change, as the old story that English troops cannot march through the country will recur to his mind. Abyssinians up here are by this time of that opinion; they know that we have guns, rifles, &c., but they say, “How can they walk with shoes?” They will soon find it out at their expense, but in the meanwhile delay may be death. I know you are doing your best, so trust in you and in God that all will be well. If not, never mind, only polish off as many of Bob’s vagabonds as you can.

H. BLANC.

No. 6.

The same to the same.

My dear Colonel,

Magdalla, 14th March 1868.

Our last messengers could not pass on as the road was closed, the Gallas and the Dalanta people having had a row. At present things are looking somewhat better, and we are trying our luck again. Bob, of late, has been rather angry with his people. He killed three of his soldiers some few days ago because they were quarrelling amongst themselves. “Look at my hands,” he said, “how can you quarrel at such a time?” He shot one with his pistol, and ordered the other two to be executed. Flogging and chaining are again daily events. The Europeans are more closely watched than ever—day and night they do not leave him. Two days ago a strong Galla force marched into Daoont, made prisoners of the Chiefs appointed by Bob, and formally took possession of the province in the name of the Galla Queen, under the very nose of the Abyssinian Emperor. Monday next it is reported that Sebastopol will be conveyed across the Bichilo, since already several days the imperial camp has been pitched on this side of the river, only the Europeans, His Majesty, and a few soldiers remaining on the northern bank to protect the guns and complete the road. As I said before, it will probably take him from 10 to 15 days to make the road and convey the guns up here, but he can always, if he likes to leave his lumber behind, come here in less than two hours. To-day he proclaimed in his camp that, as soon as the guns would be brought up to Magdala, he will take his people to some place where they will have plenty to eat and drink. He also issued a general amnesty to the people, in the words of the herald, from Herar to Senaar. Many people believe that he will not remain here, as very shortly the few soldiers still remaining would run away. Many credit the report that he will go to Godjam. I am afraid that there is a good deal of truth in that rumour, for the following reason. Bera Gooloo, the former ruler of Godjam, a prisoner on the mountain, sent to His Majesty the “tidings of good news,” when he heard of the death of his relation, Tadla Gooloo. He offered, at the same time, to accompany His Majesty chained, and by his friends make over the mountain to him on condition that His Majesty, once again in possession, he would allow him to go where he likes. His Majesty was greatly pleased, and sent him word that as soon as he arrives here he will “open” him. Bob is not the boy to remain quiet and be caught. At present his guns are the only things in his way. He is too proud to leave them behind, and that may save us. Doubt not that if he does, *he will kill*, if not run away. Wait for you, once his guns here, never! If you are here before or about the 25th all right, if not look for us in the maw of the laughing hyæna, or run after him and us towards Godjam. The rebels—I know them well—nor any other Abyssinians, will offer him any serious resistance. He can plunder almost everywhere; and certainly he can march from east to west, and from south to north without the slightest difficulty, and, though disheartened, his small band would regain courage, and see its ranks increased if there was a fair prospect of obtaining possession, through the influence of Beragooloo, of the famous Godjam Amba, and of the rich and fertile places it commands.

H. BLANC.

Précis of latest Information from Magdala and its vicinity.

22d March 1868.

News was received yesterday from Magdala, up to 15th March, when all the Europeans were well. A disturbance had taken place in Talanta, owing to an irruption of the Wollo Gallas, who had also entered Daoont in large numbers, made prisoners of the Chiefs representing Theodore

there, and formally taken possession of the province in the name of their own Queen, notwithstanding Theodore's being in the immediate neighbourhood at the time.

The King completed the transport of all his guns to the Magdala side of the Bichilo river on the 15th instant. He himself could get into the fortress at any time, in a two hours' ride. But it was calculated it would still take him 10 or 15 days to convey his guns there from where they now are.

He has proclaimed once more a general amnesty, but has been treating his own soldiers with his usual cruelty. No change is apparent in his demeanour towards the European prisoners.

The Wollo Gallas are said to be much divided amongst themselves, under rival Chiefs.

News up to March 20th has been received from the neighbourhood of Magdala, through M. Munzinger. At that date, the army of Wagshum Gobazeh, under the Dajaz Meshasha, had been set in motion for the purpose of advancing nearer to Magdala, in order to reassure the people of Talanta, as the latter had shown symptoms of submitting once more to Theodore.

The Wollo Gallas remained masters of Daont, and were keeping watch on Theodore's movements, their hostility to him tending partly to unite them among themselves.

Wagshum Gobazie was still absent from Lasta, but was expected to return soon.

It is rumoured that Theodore meditates a retreat to Godjam, but it is the opinion of the Chiefs of Lasta that it will be impossible for him to do so.

W. TWEEDIE, Lieutenant,
Political Secretary.

No. 46.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 27th April 1868).

Political, No. 19.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp, Dildee,
25th March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour, in continuation of my Despatch, No. 18, dated the 22d instant, to report that I arrived here yesterday, after a somewhat toilsome march from Marwa. The lateness of the hour when we reached our encampment has necessitated a halt to-day. The head quarters of the expedition is now about 60 miles from Magdala. The country through which we are passing is a continuous succession of mountainous tracts, not less rugged and difficult than those of Garwal, in the Himalayas. As often as want of a convenient halting place compels us to perform a march of more than nine miles, a halt the next day becomes necessary.

2. Our relations with the people of the country continue eminently satisfactory. Prince Kassa, though left now so far in the rear of our operations, still addresses to me friendly communications as often as occasion offers.

3. I received lately a very courteous letter from His Excellency Abdul Kadir Pasha, intimating the dismissal from office of Hussain Beg, the Governor of Massawa, whose conduct I had been obliged to bring unfavourably to the notice of the Viceroy of Egypt, through Colonel Stanton, Consul General in Egypt. His Excellency's letter, which contained many expressions of friendship, was suitably acknowledged.

4. Copies of letters received from the prisoners, subsequent to the date of my last Despatch, are herewith submitted. The only news which they contain is that Theodore has released Mr. Rassam from his chains, and presented him with a sum of two thousand dollars and a number of cattle. It is difficult, or rather impossible, to say what this move on his part is to be regarded as indicating.

5. The head quarters will march again, I hope, to-morrow.

6. Our latest news of Wagshum Gobazie is that he was on the way from Debra Tabor to Talanta, where M. Munzinger still awaits his arrival, in the camp of the Dajaz Meshasha.

I have, &c.,
R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

ENCLOSURES.

Copies of Letters received from Magdala, in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's Camp, near Lat, on 23d March 1868.

No. 1.

H. RASSAM, Esq., to Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., &c., &c.

Sir, Magdala, 19th March 1868.
I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a letter which I received yesterday from King Theodoros, with my answer thereto; and I shall feel obliged by your forwarding them on to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.,
H. RASSAM.

Enclosures received with above.

(A.) King THEODORE to Mr. RASSAM.

After compliments.—Oh, my friend, I have no quarrel with you, nor have I any rancour towards you. Formerly, when I sent you to Magdala, I told my people to watch you; but they sent me an answer that, out of precaution, they had put you in chains. But now, when I, your friend, am brought by God near you, your chains shall be opened. But, until I see the object of your masters, we will watch you, but without chains. Mr. Flad brought you stores and money from your country, and gave them to me. My country was then in rebellion, and I had no bearers to convey them; therefore they have been wasted. You will receive from Mr. Flad the sum of 2,000 dollars, in lieu of the things you have lost, also a hundred sheep and fifty cows, which I hope you will accept. If, by the power of God, I reach you safely, and shall see you face to face, I will consult with you. Be of good cheer.

(Without date; received by Mr. Rassam 18th March, 1868.)

(B.) Mr. RASSAM's reply to above.

Most gracious Sovereign,

I have had the honour of receiving your Majesty's kind letter, by Mr. Flad, and I was glad to learn therefrom that your Majesty was enjoying good health. I am much obliged to your Majesty for your kind consideration in thinking of me, in the matter of releasing me of my chains. May the Lord reward you for all your acts of kindness. Your Majesty has always tried to befriend me, ever since I came to your country; and I pray our Heavenly Father that it will not be long before you will complete my joy in granting the same boon to my party. I return you my best thanks for your favour in sending me, by Mr. Flad, 2,000 dollars, 100 sheep, and fifty cows, which I have received with pleasure.

No. 2.

Mr. FLAD to Colonel MEREWETHER.

Dear Sir,

Bachilo, 15th March 1868.

I learn from peasants that you have reached Wadela. From Bet Hor, in Wadela, you will find a road made now by His Majesty, by which you can easily cross Djidda and the Bachilo. I hope that you will fetch us this week, and before His Majesty can think to take the male Europeans, and run away before you, which he might do when he has put his things on the mountain. If possible, be as quick as possible behind us. Yesterday evening we crossed, with the waggons, the river Bichilo. He is in a fearful hurry to get over; why, I don't know. As he must make first the road, we can't reach the mountain before the end of this week. His Majesty seems to be well informed of your approach. We, the Europeans here, are, day and night, very strictly watched, but still treated polite. He also seems to be well informed of your soldiers and everything in your camp. To me he but once spoke about your coming. Two days ago he said to Mr. Waldemayer, his confidant, "With friendship and love they will overcome myself, but if they come otherwise I know that they won't spare me, and I shall make a great blood bath, and afterwards I shall die also." I give you this hint, as it may be of any use to you. The anxiety of all of us is great, but we trust that God will prevent his cruel hands, and bring all of us safely into your hands. Another time he said, "If it would not be for Mr. Rassam, I would have already killed Mr. Stern; I have spared him for Mr. Rassam's sake, who was my friend, and, I trust, is still my friend; but, if matters shall go wrong, Mr. Stern shall be the first victim that must die." I pray and hope that you will succeed to get us all out alive. * * You will find grass and corn on your road from Bet Hor hither. You will have to arrange to get it from some parts a few hours distant from the road. Water you only find in the river beds.

I have &c.,
T. M. FLAD.

No. 3.

Dr. BLANC to Colonel MEREWETHER.

My dear Colonel,

16th March 1868.

No news. I thought you might like to see Flad's opinion, so send you his note. Bob is a coward, but too much funk may drive him wild. He is a savage.

Yours ever,

Enclosure to above.

Mr. FLAD to Dr. BLANC.

Dear Sir,

Camp, 15th March 1868.

* * His Majesty gets so fond of us that he cannot separate himself from us; and, that nothing bad shall happen to us, he makes us sleep in one of his own tents, where we have a powerful watch inside and outside. To our health great care is taken too. Like before, we are not used to different hard work as white slaves, but are ordered to sit down below a shady tree, and in marching we are to take great care that no mischief happens to his waggons and cannons. For our day's labour we get, in the evening, a glass or two of dalsh. * * (The King's statement about the "blood bath" repeated.)

I have, &c.

T. M. FLAD.

No. 4.

Mr. RASSAM to M. MUNZINGER.

My dear Sir,

Magdala, 19th March 1868.

I have had much pleasure in receiving your welcome letter of the 14th instant, and I was glad to find therefrom that you are now so near us. * * I wish very much that you had brought a few red jackets with you, as you might by this time have surrounded the mountain, and released us of our unfortunate position. * * The enclosed letter to Sir R. Napier will acquaint you with all that has taken place about the opening of my fetters. * * We were all surprised that Mr. Prideaux and Dr. Blanc, were not opened when my chains were ordered to be taken off. Mr. Flad spoke to the King about them, but His Majesty told him that he only acknowledged me as the head, and that I was his true friend. I hope, however, that in a few days, all my fellow prisoners will be released from their chains. The King is now within and a half journey hence. He has come up the Bachilo very quickly. He is expected here in four or five days. He intends to have a consultation with me as soon as he arrives, because he said, the night before last, "When I go to Magdala, I should not like to see my friend Aito Rassam in chains." I wish very much that our deliverers had reached us a fortnight ago, as they would then have saved me all the humbug which I am obliged to employ. * * Please do not allow any letters or papers to be sent hither, excepting an important communication from the British camp. The King is now so near, that we must be very cautious. I have a great difficulty in warding off deplorable results, as you will see from Mr. Flad's letter (in a P.S.) to me. Mr. Flad wrote to me the enclosed note the day before he was ordered to join me. He has just had time to write to you a few lines, which I enclose. He was obliged to return to the Royal Camp with the other royal couriers at noon to-day. * *

H. RASSAM.

Enclosure of above. Mr. FLAD to Mr. RASSAM.

Dear Sir,

Royal Camp, 17th March 1868.

Many thanks for your note of yesterday. * * We have no news here from the camp of our friends, but in a day or two I shall hear again where they are. * * The reports of the soldiers in the camp are that they are very close to us. * * His Majesty is in a great hurry to get on. To-morrow this camp will be at Aroge. * * Yesterday evening, His Majesty sent us the following message, that "I have watched you so strictly at night, and wish to see you near me in the daytime, don't think that I have bad intentions against you. I do it out of fear that any of my people might kill you, and if one of you dies, I must die too. God be my witness, that I have no bad intentions towards against you, but I don't wish to loos* you. From an European here, I learned that His Majesty had received a letter from Sir Robert Napier when our camp was at Babba, but keep this for yourselves. On Sunday evening His Majesty said, "If I have once shaken hands with the English who come, my rebellious peasants may fear."

FLAD.

P.S.—For God's sake tell all the Europeans with you not to speak of what will take place when we are free. I know what will come, but for the present, I don't know anything, but to strengthen fools in their hope of a future glorious empire for Bob. If you have any newspaper referring to the affair, or to the Europeans here, you had better burn them at once. Let us be prudent and wise.

FLAD.

From Dr. BLANC to M. MUNZINGER (in French).

My dear M. Munzinger,

Magdala, 18th March 1868.

I am very glad to hear you are so near us, although I regret, that instead of coming alone, you have not come with a good escort of cavalry, and that we are not by this time in your hands. A few minutes ago, messengers from the King and Mr. Flad arrived, with orders to take of the chains of Mr. Rassam, and to give him 2,000 dollars, 50 cows, &c. For us, the English Officers, nothing but bad treatment. You can imagine what is the fate which is reserved for us, if you do not see me soon. I will say nothing of any one at this critical moment, but do not forget the facts, I pray of you, if anything happens to us. * * * * * I pray you again to make to the General that the position of the Europeans is most critical. We have nothing to expect from any one. * * * *

BLANC.

The Consul sends you his compliments. Like me, he is all grief for what is going on. He hopes that your movements will be prompt, otherwise, we shall be lost.

From Mr. FLAD to Mr. MUNZINGER.

Magdala, 18th March 1868.

I have been sent here to-day to open Mr. Rassam's footchains, and to give him 2,000 dollars. To-morrow I return to the King's Camp two hours from here. How much do I regret that the expedition is so fearfully slow. I expected to see the army in one or two days on the Bichilo. If Sir Robert Napier, with the expedition, intends only to save England's honour, it is to be fore seen that we all will be lost. But if he likes to have the prisoners alive, he must cede and make concessions till the people are safe, and only then he must try to punish.

T. M. FLAD.

No. 47.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 27th April 1868).

Political, No. 20.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp Santra,
29th March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour, in continuation of my Despatch, No. 19, dated Dildee, the 25th instant, to report, for your information, that the head quarters of the expedition advanced from Dildee to Wandajh on the 26th instant; thence to Mooja on the 27th; and from Mooja to this place yesterday.

2. The ascent from Dildee was most severe. The altitude surmounted was three thousand feet, the greater part of which lay in about five miles. A heavy storm of rain set in towards evening, which made the road so slippery that the rear of the column was not in till past midnight. The cold was severe.

3. A descent to the more temperate valley of Mooja, on the 27th, was very welcome. A short march on that day was necessary to recruit our tired cattle, which had had but little forage at Wandajh.

4. Yesterday's march was one of the most trying that we have yet performed. An easy descent carried us into the valley of the Tacasseh river; but the ascent to the plain of Wadela was up a sheer precipice by short and steep zigzags. The fatigues of marching were the more felt owing to the men having to carry their blankets, waterproof sheets, and great coats, in consequence of the necessity of providing against the storms of rain, accompanied with severe cold, which have been of almost daily occurrence since the head quarters arrived at Dildee, as the breaking down of a few mules would leave many men without any warm clothing for a night or two, unless they carried that portion of their kit with them. Unfortunately, too, owing to the breaking down of a link in the local transport, we are for the present without rum or sugar, but measures have been taken to remedy this deficiency.

5. Yesterday's march has brought us to an elevated plateau, about 10,500 feet above the level of the sea, situated in the province of Wadela, which may be said to have its northern boundary in the deep mountain valley of the Tacasseh.

6. The country passed since the date of my last Despatch has been of the most mountainous and difficult character. At Wandajh, where we were at an elevation of

about 10,500 feet above the sea level, storms of hail fell, and a hill in the distance was white with snow; ice also formed at night. The temperature in our present encampment is not less trying. The sun gains considerable power during the day, but the nights are very cold, and the ground this morning was covered with hoar frost. The health of the troops, however, continues excellent. We halt to-day, and shall probably halt to-morrow, in order to concentrate the force, and to obtain accurate information of the best approaches to Magdala.

7. Had any opposition been offered, our ascent to Wadela would have been difficult. It was, therefore, of importance to obtain a footing on the table-land as soon as possible, more especially as Theodore was (erroneously) reported to have recrossed the Bichilo.

8. No communication has as yet reached me from Theodorus; neither have I addressed him in any way since forwarding to him the proclamation and the demand for the prisoners, in October last. There is no doubt Theodore has received that proclamation, though he has not taken any notice of it. Letters have been received from our countrymen in Magdala within the last three days. But, as these contain no news or matter of public interest, copies have not been forwarded. Our latest intelligence of Theodore is that he was nearing Islamgee, distant about fifteen hundred yards from Magdala, on the 22d instant, and had with him an army computed at ten thousand men, of whom from four to five thousand were musketeers, the remainder (of whom about five hundred were mounted) being armed chiefly with spears. He continues to give no clue to the policy he means to adopt.

9. Wagshoom Gobazeh is still absent from Lasta. Copy of translation of a letter which I yesterday received from him is hereto appended.

10. Dajaz Mashashah, the Commander of his forces and chief representative in this neighbourhood, with whom M. Munzinger has been living since arriving in Lasta, visited me this forenoon, accompanied by M. Munzinger. Dajaz Mashashah is the maternal uncle of the Wagshoom, and is the head of the Lasta family, although the Chief of Wag has now become, *de facto*, ruler of a kingdom in which the province of Lasta is included. He was attended by between four and five hundred horsemen, light wiry men, ill clothed, but armed with spears, shields, swords, and many of them with pistols, and mounted upon small horses as hardy as themselves, which they managed with admirable dexterity over the most precipitous and difficult ground.

10. Dajaz Mashashah impressed me very favourably. The fruits of his good will had been witnessed, in the comparative facility with which we have been procuring supplies in districts where grass and wood are specially scarce.

11. Major Grant, C.B., and Captains Moore and Speedy, with a suitable escort, having conducted the Dajaz into my camp, he was introduced to me by Brigadier-General Merewether, C.B., and I expressed to him my regret at not having the pleasure of seeing Wagshoom Gobazeh himself, but added that everything had been satisfactorily arranged by the Dajaz for our army. The latter replied that what had been done to assist us had been by his master's order, but had been to him a source of especial gratification. He then begged he might be allowed to take his leave, as there was a petty rebel in Wadela, whom he was obliged to go and punish. On my requesting him to leave some one to represent him in my camp, he introduced to me Meegashee Gadloo, whom he charged to attend to our wants. He was then presented with a horse, a double-barrelled gun, and some powder, a carpet and rug, which seemed to please him very much.

12. The attendants having been dismissed to a little distance, the Dajaz begged me to be on my guard against sudden attack on the part of Theodore, who, he observed, is a man of whom no one can say what he may do. I replied that it is the custom of our troops in camp to be always watchful. He then stated that Theodore had given out that the coming of the British force was entirely in friendship, and that the Gallas who were opposing him were rather alarmed at the report, fearing that the King would become more powerful than before. Dajaz Mashashah intimated that it would reassure the Gallas if we were to say that no peace would be made with Theodore. To this I replied, that it would not be expedient to give any indication at present of the course which I intended to pursue, as a short time would show.

14. The second brigade will, I hope, join me to-morrow. The head quarters, when thus reinforced, will present the strength noted in Appendix B. I purpose to advance the day after to-morrow.

15. M. Munzinger has returned in safety to head quarters. The absence of Wagsboom Gobazeh had prevented his meeting that Prince as designed. But the information he has been able to procure for us, at first while passing through the country in advance of our troops, but more especially of late while living in intimate association with the Dajaz Mashashab, has been, I consider, of very important service to the expedition.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Appendix A.

Translation of a Letter in Amharic from DAJAZMAJ WAGSHUM GOBAZEH to the Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian Expedition (received 28th March 1868).

How are you? I am going to fight Tijjo Gobazeh. But, before I went, I left Dajaz Meshasha to receive you. Now, if you are there before I come back, wait for me. It is impossible for me to come to receive you, having left an army behind.

Free translation.

MUNZINGER.

Appendix B.

Abyssinian Field Force.

Strength of Advanced Force encamped at Santara, 30th March 1868.

	British.		Native.	
	Officers.	Non-commissioned, Rank and File.	Officers.	Non-commissioned, Rank and File.
General Staff - - - - -	22	—	1	26
First, or Sir C. Staveley's Division.				
1st Brigade.				
Brigadier-General Schneider, and General and Brigade Staffs	8	—	—	—
3d Regiment Sind Horse - - - - -	9	—	13	231
A/21 Steel Battery - - - - -	8	115	—	—
10th Company, Royal Engineers - - - - -	3	29	—	—
Head Quarters, 4th King's Own Regiment - - - - -	26	483	—	—
Ditto, ditto, 1st Belooch Battalion - - - - -	5	—	8	318
2 Companies, Punjab Pioneers - - - - -	2	—	4	178
2d Brigade.				
Brigadier-General Wilby and Brigade Staff - - - - -	4	—	—	—
Head Quarters, 3d Light Cavalry - - - - -	8	—	12	163
B/21, Steel Battery - - - - -	6	103	—	—
Naval Rocket Brigade - - - - -	6	83	—	—
Head Quarters, 33d D. W. O. Regiment - - - - -	30	689	—	—
Ditto, ditto, 4 Companies, Punjab Pioneers - - - - -	6	—	8	331
Sind Horse (detachment) - - - - -	—	—	2	100
3d Brigade.				
Brigadier-General Field, and Brigade Staff - - - - -	4	—	—	—
Head Quarters, 12th Bengal Cavalry - - - - -	4	—	4	140
3 Companies Sappers and Miners (1 Madras, 2 Bombay) - - - - -	6	—	6	344
1 Company 4th Foot - - - - -	1	55	—	—
2 Companies Punjab Pioneers - - - - -	2	—	4	178
Head Quarters, 4 Companies 10th Regiment - - - - -	4	—	8	209
Total of Royal Artillery { 4 guns, 8/14, Royal Artillery } { 2 8-inch mortars - - - - - }	6	120	—	—

3d Brigade, two marches in rear, escorting, and clearing roads for elephants, with guns and mortars.

Total:—British Officers	170	Men	1,677
Native „	70	„	2,218

Grand Total	240		3,895
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W. E. MACLEOD, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Head Quarters.

No. 48.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 27th April 1868).

No. 966.

Quartermaster-General's Office,
Camp Lartaga (30 miles from Magdala),
29th March 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour herewith to forward the copies of Reports noted in the margin, received from Colonel R. Phayre, Deputy Quartermaster-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, commanding the reconnoitring party, on the road from Antalo to Magdala.

Report, dated Attala, 11th March 1868.	
" " Makhan Doha, 13th March 1868.	
" " Haya, 15th March 1868.	
" " Ashangi, 21st March 1868.	
" " Messakeeta, 21st March 1868.	

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commanding the Forces in Abyssinia.

ADVANCED RECONNOISSANCE.

Quartermaster-General's Report *en route* from Antalo to Ashangi.

Halted at Attala.

Sunday, 8th March.—Completed and despatched report on the previous day's march from Musnoo to Attala.

Monday, 9th March.—Proceeded this morning on a tour of reconnoissance towards Eiva, which is stated in the native route to be eight miles from Attala. Found the distance to be about three, viz., one mile, six furlongs to the top of Debra Moosa pass, the remainder down into the Eiva valley. The native track up this pass is very steep up to a road near the top, about 12 feet wide, said to have been cut out of the hill side by Theodorus about five or six years ago. My informant stated that a similar road was ordered to be made throughout, from Doha to Amba Alajji, and that it still exists in some parts, in others the trial line was cut two feet wide, but never finished. Such is the state of matters on the Debra Moosa mountain, I therefore traced out a road from Camp Attala up an easy spur, so as to meet the cleared road in question, as the line, though steep, is far easier and better than the native zigzag from the bottom up to the part that has been made.

The march from Attala instead of being to Eiva, will be to some convenient place beyond, probably Belago, as recommended by M. Munzinger in his report of 4th March. Before receiving that report, I had made the reconnoissance under description, and not only in consequence of the short distance of Eiva from Attala, but the confined character of the former valley, which is deep black soil, I was prepared to survey for an encamping ground better suited to our purposes, and I hope to do this shortly.

Tuesday, 10th March.—Proceeded this morning with Dr. Rohlf and Lord Adare to examine the route back to the Alajji pass from Attala, and down into the Beb Mara valley beyond, it having appeared from the surveys of the last few days from Musgee to Musno and Attala that

Halted at Attala. The Musgee and Alajji route to Attala.

that the direct line from Musgee by Alajji would prove some five or six miles shorter than by Musno.

Description of the route from Attala up to the Alajji saddle.

1st, from Attala camp, across the valley to the foot of the Sheffuk Antee defile, six furlongs. Rise of 60 feet.

to the banks of the Attala river in the centre.

The first two furlongs of this ascent are not bad, either in point of gradient or road surface; but the last three are very bad, and a new line would be required.

2d, ascent up the west side of the defile on the spur called Addi Shoho, to an open plain of the same name. Distance five furlongs; rise in feet 350.

which animals can scarcely pass, is necessary.

3d, ascent of the plain of Addi Shoho. Distance, five furlongs; rise in feet 650.

4th, rise to a narrow neck at the foot of the main ascent to the Alajji saddle. Distance, six furlongs; rise in feet 450.

5th, up the main pass beneath the Amba Alajji to the saddle. Distance, 6 furlongs; rise in feet 700.

The description of the ascent to Alajji from Attala is as follows:—

The road for this distance is plain and good across the Attala valley, which has been before described as sloping gently from the foot of either chain of mountains, by which it is bounded, to

the banks of the Attala river in the centre.

Part of the old line has slipped into the Rago ravine and stream below; consequently, in order to avoid this impassable obstacle, a detour, up amongst the most rugged rocks, through

Gentle ascent, and road good up a terraced slope ploughed at present for cultivation; soil black.

Ascent not steep, road requires to be cleared of loose stones and jungle.

There is the remnant of Theodorus' zigzag up a part of this, the rest has either been washed away or never completed.

In the event of our using the Alajji pass from Musgee, we should have to clear a new line on Nos. 2, 4, and 5, a distance of two miles, one furlong, out of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the length of the pass on the south side.

The aneroid I had with me, gave the height of the Alajji saddle (the head of the pass) to be about 1,700 feet above Attala.

Dr. Rohlf's calculates from the boiling of the thermometer, that the same point is 9,680 feet above the sea, or 2,532 feet above Attala, the latter being 7,098 feet above the sea, as given by the boiling point.

The aneroid gave the head of the Alajji pass and the head of the Felluk Einuk Oonzool on the Musno line to be nearly the same height, that is to say, within 60 or 80 feet of each other.

The Amba Alajji being the residence and stronghold of Dedjaz Wolda Yasoos, we were told that we could not be allowed to visit it without special permission, which, as the Chief was absent, could not be given. I estimate the summit of the cone, which surmounts the scarp, to be 800 of 1,000 feet above the roadway at the head of the pass as follows:

Height of the Amba, directly above the head of the pass.	From roadway to foot of scarp - -	400 or 500 feet.
	Scarp - - - - -	200 or 250 feet.
	Cone above scarp - - - - -	200 feet.

The summit of the cone appears to be covered with tints. There is said to be a plentiful supply of water on it.

The Chief's residence could not be seen from the eastern side.

Covered way into the Amba from the saddle. It is not commanded by any height of the chain of which it forms a part. The eastern end overhangs the head of the pass, and is approachable, apparently, by a zigzag covered way up the precipice. This we ascertained from seeing several people descending by it, as soon as they saw us arrive.

There is a high peak, to the east of the saddle, about 1,000 or 1,200 yards distant, that approaches nearer to the height of the Amba than any other, but it would be difficult to reach it, except up the Bet Mara valley, within the range of the Amba's command.

I have not examined the Bet Mara valley to Musgee below the point indicated in the accompanying plan, owing to my having carried the survey, as already reported, to Musno. M. Munzinger, however, in his report dated 3d instant, copy of which I received last evening, recommends a camp being pitched at the foot of the Alajji descent, on the Bet Mara side, which would be eleven miles from Musgee, whence to Attala would be five miles, viz., $1\frac{1}{2}$ up to the Alajji saddle, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ from that to Attala. Thus, the saving of distance on the Alajji line would be nearly seven miles, it being 16 miles from Musgee to Attala by Alajji, and 22 miles 6 furlongs by Musno.

Some of the slopes, however, ascending and descending from Alajji would have to be lengthened.

Should His Excellency decide upon using the Alajji route, for either the advancing columns or stores, I would strongly recommend that the parts described in this report be cleared in the first instance by pioneers.

Accompaniments:—

Sketch plan of the encamping ground at Attalo.

Sketch of the route from Musno to Attalo, and from the latter back to Alajji and the Bet Mara valley.

Attala to Eiva, Bulago, and Doba Mukkan, total, 13 miles, 6 furlongs.

Debra Moosa pass, Bota Chain.

In the last report it was shown that Attala is situated between the Alajji and Bota chains of mountains, and that the only route from it to Ashangi lies across the Debra Moosa pass, called so from the village of the same name at the foot.

The description of the road to Eiva, Bulago, and Doba (or Dolea) Mukkan is as follows:—

1st. From Camp Attala, by the newly laid out line to beginning of the King's road 1 mile, 4 furlongs, 136 yards.

2d. King's road to top of Debra Moosa pass, 2 furlongs, height above the sea, 8,407, or 1,309 boiling point of thermometer above Attala.

According to aneroid, the head of the Debra Moosa pass is 1,128 feet above Attala Camp. According to boiling point of the thermometer, 1,309.

The high point of Bota is about 1,000 feet immediately above the saddle of Debra Moosa, westward.

3d. From top of Debra Moosa to bottom of steep part of descent into the Eiva valley, 2 furlongs, 86 yards. Fall in feet, 300.

4th. From the above to the Eiva River, 6 furlongs, 58 yards. Fall, 200 feet.

safely, owing to the deep black mud in its bed, and the steepness of the banks, which require to be sloped.

Unless a paved roadway, some 20 feet wide, with a good foundation of large stones is made across this river, it will give a great deal of trouble to elephants, and cause great loss of stores, &c. I would strongly recommend that a party be detached from the pioneer force on its arrival at Attala to arrange this. There is a ford lower down, off the line of road; that has a hard bottom.

5th. From the Eiva River to foot of the Dubbar pass, Tsibet chain, 1 mile, 92 yards. Rise in feet, 250.

Attala valley. Met great numbers of people carrying grain to our camp at Attala for sale. Purchased what we required. Hills and country quite bare from Attala to this and consequently a scarcity of firewood.

There is good grazing for cattle in the low ground on the river.

Eiva would be a good encamping ground, if required.

This part is confined between the precipices of Tsibet, on the west side, and the easier slopes of the Eiva chain on the east. The pass is about three furlongs wide, and is a terraced slope. Viewed from a distance, it does not convey the idea of either steepness or great altitude. This may possibly be owing to the precipices of Tsibet on the west and the lofty scarps of Amba Ferrah, at the southern end of that chain.

Brought forward	-	-	-	550
No. 7 Ascent:				
Length, 1 mile, 73 yards.	-	-	-	100
Rise in feet	-	-	-	
No. 8 Ascent, to small plain:				
Length, 2 furlongs, 119 yards.	-	-	-	350
Rise, in feet	-	-	-	
No. 9 Ascent:				
Length, 116 yards.	-	-	-	70
Rise, in feet	-	-	-	
No. 10 Ascent:				
Length, 4 furlongs, 15 yards.	-	-	-	450
Rise, in feet	-	-	-	
No. 11 is across a plain:				
Length, 105 yards.	-	-	-	
No. 12 Ascent:				
Length, 1 furlong, 16 yards.	-	-	-	160
Rise, in feet	-	-	-	
No. 13 Ascent:				
Length, 171 yards.	-	-	-	100
Rise, in feet	-	-	-	
No. 14 Ascent, to top of Dubbar saddle:				
Length, 1 furlong, 173 yards.	-	-	-	100
Rise, in feet	-	-	-	
Total	-	-	-	1,880

Proposed halting place on the Dubbar pass instead of in the Eiva valley, with a view to dividing the distance between Attala and Mukkun conveniently, and saving the transport animals.

In the event of such being adopted, the baggage animals might, if requisite, be watered in the Eiva valley. There is plenty of forage on the top of Dubbar.

* Bulago was used by Gobazy as an encamping ground.

No. 15. From the top of Dubbar pass beneath the scarps of Ferrah Amba to the head of first steep descent, 2 furlongs, 178 yards. Fall in feet, 100.

No. 16. Fall to grassy plain of Laffee Dubbar, beneath Addi Denda village, situated on the clefts of Ferrah Amba, 3 furlongs, 55 yards. Fall in feet, 375.

No. 17. Down grassy plain, 1 furlong, 206 yards.

No. 18. Fall to Mai Denda plain below cultivation and water, 7 furlongs, 183 yards. Fall in feet, 380.

Road easy and good down the plain.

No. 19. Further fall down plain of Affajee to dry water course, length 1 furlong, 44 yards. Fall in feet, 70.

No. 20. Rise from dry watercourse to the top of Devra Taft pass, 1 furlong, 133 yards.

No. 21. From top of Devra Taft pass to water at foot (Mai Addi Gaz), 4 furlongs, 181 yards. Fall in feet, 670.

any good means of lengthening the slopes

Country from this well wooded. Plenty of excellent telegraph poles.

watershed from this is eastward. The inhabitants Mahomedans.

The small springs of the Mai Goshashee are in a deep ravine, some 30 or 40 feet below the level

No. 22. From the above small springs to Mai Goshashee, distance, 2 miles, 18 yards. Fall, 368 feet.

Road very good. The Eiva is a far finer valley than appears from the heights of Debra Moosa or Bota. It is rich black soil, and has a great many springs in different parts. It does not appear to be so well cultivated as the

parts. It does not appear to be so well cultivated as the parts. It does not appear to be so well cultivated as the

Generally speaking, these short ascents are to terraces. There are not many large stones to remove, but the road surface being firm black earth has been worn into deep ruts, which are very harassing to laden animals. The whole line will require repair by the Pioneer force.

There is an irrigation channel between Nos. 8 and 9, which would supply them with water when at work. There is plenty of green grass at the top of the pass.

According to aneroid, the height of the Dubbar saddle, above Eiva river, is 1880 feet. According to boiling point of thermometer (Dr. Rohlf's), it is 2,159 feet, or 9,723 feet above the sea. Amba Ferrah is at least 1,500 feet higher than the saddle.

The pass from No. 6 to top at saddle is 1,630 feet by aneroid, in a distance of 1 mile, 6 furlongs. Its ratio of slopes, therefore, including the flat spaces in the above length is 1 in 5.

As the steep slopes of the ascent and descent of the Debra Moosa and Dubbar passes are very trying to laden animals, a march might be made from Attala to the top of the 5th ascent of the latter, where there is plain ground enough for a small camp, and an irrigational channel of good water. Distance, $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles. This would leave only $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles for the next day's march to Mukkun Doa (or Doba).

Should this be convenient, the camp might be at Bulago,* nearly two miles further on at the southern foot of Dubbar. See No. 19, below.

This is plain ground, requiring a little clearing only.

This is a steep and very rugged fall of 1 in 5. It is covered with angular rocks and stones, and will have to be carefully made and lengthened.

Road even and good.

Road not so steep, but the whole will require to be cleared of large blocks of granitic rock, and made passable.

Church on Bulago height to left. Halting ground on this plain, or on that of Bulago, beyond the church. Water flows westward past the western side of the Tsibet into the Tzellari.

Road good on plain. Very little work required.

This the steepest and most rugged part of the whole line. The precipitous rocky sides of Devra Taft on the west side, and of Tsat on the eastern, do not afford without incurring heavy rocky work; the only course, therefore, will be to have long zigzags. The country hitherto bare up to the top of Devra Taft from Attala, is now thickly wooded with juniper and other trees. The

The inhabitants Mahomedans.

The ground, however, though

jungly, is not stony, and will be easily cleared of all obstacles. The banks of all these will require roads into and out of them at least ten feet wide, and the overhanging trees, &c., to be removed.

No. 23. Gentle rise across the Tahafte plain, near the village of the low pass of Dagoolé or Tagoole, 1 mile, 3 furlongs, 5 yards. This lies across a well wooded plain of baubool, juniper, and other trees and shrubs.

No. 24. To camp at Mai Doha (or Doba) Mukkan, 1 mile, 4 furlongs, 109 yards. Fall in feet, 280. There is a Mahomedan village and mosque here. Grass scanty. Road down the open terraced plain of Doba, a good deal of which is ploughed for cultivation.

There is not much grass on the plain, but on the hill sides enough for the purposes of marching camps will be collected. Firewood plentiful.

Water very good from springs in the Mai Doha, below the village of Mukkan. These springs rise in a thick grove called Sheik-i-Furrah. There are nightingales in it, as also on the Devra Taft pass.

The Doha river flows eastward into the Azuba Galla country, the watershed being within four or miles, it is said. From Devra Taft to Mukkan Doha, and on towards Ashangi, is border ground.

I have obtained sufficient supplies of sheep and grain for my small detachment, but the head man of Mukkan assures me that, for a large force, sufficient will only be procurable at Ashangi, where everything is abundant.

The camp at Mukkan is, by the boiling point of thermometer, as taken by Dr. Rohlf's 7,324 feet above the sea, or 2,409 feet below the head of the Dubbar pass

By aneroid, the fall is 2,243 feet between the same points.

There being insufficient water for a large force between Mukkan and Ashangi, a distance of 10 miles, it will be necessary to make one march from this. The stages, therefore, from Antalo to Ashangi, by Alajji, will be as follows:—

	M.	F.	Yds.
1. Antalo to Musgee, across Chafeet plateau	-	-	8 1 100
2. To Camp in Bet Mara valley (computed, as the site of the camp is not yet known)	-	-	10 0 0
3. To Attala, across the Alajji chain, at a point about 1,800 feet above Attala	-	-	6 5 45
4. To Eiva river, across Debra Moosa pass, Bota chain (rise, 1,128 feet; fall, 500 feet)	-	-	2 7 50*
5. { 5. To Bulago, across Dubbar pass (Ambah Ferrah), Tsibet chain (rise, 1,880 feet; fall, 925 feet)	-	-	5 0 105
6. To Mukkun Doa, down the Devra Taft pass, and across the Adjurra and Tahafte plains (fall, 1,318 feet)	-	-	5 6 6
6 or 7. To Ashangi (computed)	-	-	10 0 0
	48	4	86

* Note.—The water referred to in this report as on the Eiva side of the Dubbar pass is 1 mile, 5 furlongs, 50 yards further than the river; and if a camp were formed above it, as recommended, then Nos. 3, 5, and 6, being reduced to 9 miles, 1 furlong, might be thrown into one march.

Whilst writing the preceding paragraph, two men of the Wagshum Gobazye have come in to say that they have been ordered to commence clearing the route between this and Ashangi, which M. Munzinger has described as so difficult. I have arranged to go with them to-morrow morning to point out what is required, and will report further hereafter.

I endeavoured to persuade them to bring their men back to the Devra Taft pass, which is the worst we have as yet, and promised to trace out a line for them; but they objected to his, it being in Tigré, Wolda Yasoos' territory.

From the Haia saddle, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles onward from Mukkan, which I visited this morning, the territory is Gobazye's, and the party will work from that to Ashangi. Between our camp and Haya the road is very good, rise gentle, the only work required being the removal of loose stones, and clearing juniper jungle.

Fourth day's march, from Assan Galla to Mai Ahio (Missakeeta); distance, 7 miles, 3 furlongs, 203 yards.

Saturday, 21st March.—This march crosses the low chain of Burreya Devano, at a point on the range called Moba Burreya, in Muhago district, and near the village of the same name.

The head of Moba Burreya pass is not itself more than about 560 feet above Assan Galla, and, by this line, $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles distant from it; but in reaching it the aggregate falls amount to 700 feet, and the rises to 1,237 feet, in consequence of the number of ravines and spurs which the line crosses.

From Moba Burreya, down to the camp in the narrow valley of Dora Mai Ahio (Mussakeeta district) is a very abrupt and partly rugged fall of 455 feet.

Apart from such of the ascents and descents as are steep, the line generally is easy, the road good, and, as a whole, wonderfully free from stone, though there are stony and bad parts which will be mentioned in detail below.

There are fine brooks of water nearly the whole way, and, for the last part of the march, a good deal of grass on the hills around.

The valleys passed through are the Assangalla, the Emlaka Zaloonga, Azza Mariam, Lemesan, and Mutago. They are all well populated, and the people far more obliging and friendly than those of Tigré and Wójjerat, Ashangi, and Wolfela. The slopes of the hills are terraced, for cultivation, to the summits, and bear traces of last season's crops. In fact, instead of finding a dry, barren country, as I had anticipated, from the scanty water supply and the precipitous character of the ground below the Duffat pass, which closed yesterday's march, I have to-day passed through a well populated, cultivated, and watered tract of country, far easier for the march of troops than much of the ground traversed between Antalo, Ashangi, and Lat.

The mules marched well, and without accident.

The encamping ground at Ahio is not so open and good as at other places, such as Enalka, Azza Mariam, or Mai Lemesan; but its distance, in going from Lat to Dildee, is suitable, and therefore I crossed the Burreya Devano, instead of halting at Lemesan, on the north side of that range. A good encamping ground might be cleared at Ahio of the shrubs with which it is covered, and I would recommend this being done.

Dildee is said by the guides to be about the same distance from Ahio as the latter is from Assangalla.

The details of the march are as follows:—

1st. From Camp Assangalla to stream of Enalka Merra, 6 furlongs, 78 yards.

A better encamping ground here than at Assangalla, if the increased distance from Lat is not an objection.

2d. Across spur, and fall into a deep ravine, 2 furlongs, 116 yards.

The bed is about 350 feet below the site of Assangalla camp.

3d. Over plain ground to right bank of the Mai Fussassee, same as Mai Assangalla, 3 furlongs, 12 yards.

4th. Deep fall down bank to the confluence of the rivers Medumbee and Tessassee, 3 furlongs, 22 yards. Fall, 120 feet.

The line of route here leaves the main stream, which flows westward, and receives the name of the district it passes through till it joins the Tzellari.

A very steep ascent for 150 feet, through open terraced ground. The route then winds

5th. Up the left bank of Medumbee to the first crossing, near Zaloonga, 5 furlongs, 171 yards.

The Medumbee receives the name of Zaloonga here.

6th. To second crossing of river, below village of Zaloonga, 3 furlongs, 45 yards.

7th. To top of first spur, nearly opposite the church of Kannitz Lammac of Zaloonga, 4 furlongs, 7 yards.

8th. To top of second ascent, near Zaloonga, 1 furlong, 46 yards.

9th. Fall to junction of two streams, the Azza Mariam and the Muhago, 2 furlongs, 146 yards.

10th. Rise past Azza Mariam village to spur, 1 furlong, 172 yards.

11th. Fall again to stream Muhago, Addi Maidya, 5 furlongs, 109 yards.

12th. Ascent to another spur, Addi Madeya, Muhago, 1 furlong, 195 yards.

13th. Fall to junction of the stream of Mai Foon from east, and Mai Lemesan from south, 3 furlongs 153 yards.

14th. Up open cultivated ground of Lamesan to top of Burreyo Devano at Umba Burreya, near Muhago village, 5 furlongs, 205 yards.

and bad in parts, and will require a good deal of work.

15th. Fall to Dora water in Dora valley, 4 furlongs, 92 yards.

16th. Fall to Mai Ahio, in Messakeeta district, 4 furlongs, 114 yards.

Camp at Ahio is 6,952 feet above the sea, by thermometer boiling point, as taken by Dr. Rohlf.

It is by this standard 53 feet higher than Assangalla.

By aneroid, it is 105 feet higher.

Another route, said to be much shorter than this, between the two points, but much more difficult, was surveyed, in consequence of information received before marching this morning. It has only turned out to be about a mile shorter, with two impassable places for mules.

It will be shown in the sketch plans under preparation, but it is not adapted for our purposes.

Last March. From Mukhan Doha or Doba to Ashangi by Haya.

border as much as possible.

The description of the Haya route is as follows. Surveyed yesterday, 14th March. The first

1st. From camp on the left bank of Mai Doha to the top of the Haya pass, 1 mile, 4 furlongs, 142 yards. Rise in feet, 318.

existing line good, and, generally speaking, 10 feet wide. Juniper and other trees thick in parts, and large loose stones obstruct the way. The work to be done is not heavy. I cleared all existing obstacles to the safe passage of my own mules in an hour with 10 Lascars and guides, 100 of the pioneer force would do all that is required in a day. The top of this pass is said to be the boundary line between Lasta and Tigré.

Road down the south-east base of the same hill as above on a broad ledge between it and the

Road rough in parts of this distance. The banks of the stream will require to be sloped.

The descent is very steep and bad, though through open cultivated ground.

Road good, over open ground.

This is a very bad, and, in one part, a dangerous descent, owing to the bank having given way.

The route then winds easily along the hill-side by a narrow path, till it falls, by a bad rocky descent, into the Medumbee again.

Road to be widened where it passes along the hill side overhanging the stream.

Road too narrow for baggage animals, steep and bad in parts. Work required here.

Very steep and difficult for mules; requires widening and improving. Some jungle to be cut. Parts require to be improved. Grass hereabouts.

Though cultivated land, first and last parts steep and difficult.

Partly good and bad, as before.

Very steep.

The road at banks almost impassable. Wide paths will be required.

There is a very long and steep ascent of 360 feet. It is very rocky

A precipitous and bad fall of about 1 in 4 in the last part of this distance.

Part of this is also very steep and bad.

boiling point, as taken by Dr. Rohlf.

There are two lines from Mukhan Doha to Ashangi, the eastward one by Haya, which is the best, the other more to the westward by Mount Sarenga, avoiding the Azubo Galla

Vennee Kalo ravine, running eastward to the Raia Galla country, which is within three or four miles, very wild, and thickly wooded.

The country generally *en route* is very prettily wooded, and affords as fine landscape scenery, if not finer, than any we have yet met on the highlands of Abyssinia. It is wonderfully free from loose stones, compared with the tracks we have recently traversed.

The road for the space under report is by no means naturally difficult. Easy slopes may be had without much labour. At one point only did I find any obstruction worth mentioning for the passage of laden mules, viz., on falling from the Bettel Hey spur into a plain, where, owing to a slip of moorcum having taken place, it will be necessary for the pioneers to execute a cutting in moorcum of 30 feet long by 10 by 12. I cut this wide enough for my own mules with the Lascars. 50 men of the pioneer force would easily make the mile and a quarter under report passable for elephants in one day.

There is a fair spring of water in the Mai Bokolo ravine at the end of this distance, which would serve for the working party for a day. The banks of the Mai Bokolo to be cleared of thick wood and sloped for about 100 yards. The rest of this space is easy, and may be cleared by 50 men in a day.

Road excellent, except at the close near the Mai Haya, where some fine juniper trees will have to be felled, and the banks of the ravine sloped.

The scenery is open woodland, and has the appearance of a tastefully laid out park. There is very little required except at the ravine named, and it is by no means heavy. The main obstructions to the immediate passage of mules I removed, being principally trees felled so as to obstruct the path, and in one part arranged like an abattis. One hundred pioneers would easily do all that is required on this space in one day.

I did not proceed beyond this point, though I had reached the foot of the Larenga spur that forms the northern boundary of Lake Ashangi, from the top of which I was informed I could see the lake and the surrounding country. The Wagshum Gobazy's men, referred to in last report as having orders to collect men and make the road, were with me, and when I asked them where their men were they said they were being collected. I then returned towards my camp at Mukhan Doha, clearing away all bad obstacles with a dozen guides and Lascars, and made the line passable for mules by 4 p.m. Thus the first half of the march from Mukhan Doha to Ashangi will be easily cleared by the pioneer force in a day.

As regards the remaining five or six miles across the Larenga spur, it will evidently be difficult work, owing to the density of the forest, and the apparently rocky character of the ground. Late in the afternoon, several head men of the Haya and Mukhan Doha district came to visit me, and after referring to the orders which their Chief Gobazy had issued as to clearing the road from the Mai Haya to Ashangi, I induced them, by a small present of two dollars each, to arrange to collect men at the ravine by to-morrow (Monday, 16th), when I promised to attend and direct their work in person. I also promised to give every man who came to work one dollar for six days' labour. This entirely changed the aspect of affairs, as they had previously pointed out how dangerous the Haya forest was, owing to the Gallas, &c., and that we ought not to encamp there. I hope, therefore, if these men keep their word, to commence the last five miles into Ashangi to-morrow morning.

When *en route* to Haya, early on Saturday the 14th instant, we met at least 1,500 to 2,000 people, chiefly women, laden with grain, and proceeding from Ashangi to the Tutrafti market, close to our camp at Mukhan Doha.

I sent a pencil note to Major Grant at Attala, informing him of this, and suggesting that he should arrange to lay in grain for the forces here as soon as possible, lest the supply in question should be lost.

I also sent back my interpreter with a note to Lord Adare (who had remained in camp), begging him to buy as much of the grain in passing as he could find money to pay for. We succeeded in purchasing 190 dollars worth at a cheaper rate than the Woggerat, and I hope that I may soon be relieved of its charge, otherwise it will interfere with my move to Haya and the road making thence to Ashangi.

Enclosures.

1. Sketch of the route from Attala to Mukhan Doha.
2. Sketch of the valley and encamping ground at Mukhan Doha.

Felling axes, crowbars, and a saw or two, would be of great use to me if any could be spared from the pioneer force.

The first five miles of this march was described in last report despatched to head quarters on the morning of the 15th March. Shortly after 10 a.m. on that day, Colonel Loch's detachment of Cavalry, with Major Grant and Captain Moore, having arrived at Mukhan Doha, I moved to Mai Haya Enteshahur, in order to be ready for the work of clearing the Haya pass next day (16th), which I hoped to do quickly with the promised assistance of labourers from Haya.

Commenced the work at 7 a.m. with some of my escort and establishment, and completed it by 1 p.m., without a man of Gobaze's having appeared on the scene, except one as a spectator.

The description of the last part of the march under report, viz., from Mai Haya, at the foot of the Ashangi pass on the north side, to Ainee Mai, on Lake Ashangi, is as follows:—

The first mile and a half of the distance is across terraced ground. The old line, which had been rendered impassable by order of Walda Yasoos, so as to prevent an enemy from surprising his border villages, driving off their cattle, &c., was opened out. The guide, who was a soldier of this Chief's, declared at first that there was no road except the steep impracticable one to which he at first brought us. As soon, however,

1st. From the Mai Haya, at northern foot of the Ashangi pass, to the top of the Assahara spur, from which the lake is seen, 2 miles, 5 furlongs, 46 yards. Top of pass 8,547 feet above the sea. Rise in feet from Mai Haya, according to thermometer, 1,446, according to aneroid, 950 feet.

as we began to remove the trees which had been felled across the easiest line, he admitted that it had been done purposely, to check the sudden advance of Gobaze's army some time ago, and that it has been preserved as a protection against border raids of the Gallas, &c.

The distance under description, however, includes two naturally steep and rugged ascents of about two furlongs each, which are covered with loose masses of rock and large juniper trees.

There is a magnificent view of the lake and surrounding country from the Assahara spur, a comparatively low point of the Larenga range, of which it is an offshoot.

View of the Lake.

Were time and labour available, a very easy line into the Ashangi valley could be obtained a mile or two to the eastward, turning this difficult ground and that about to be described below.

The road descends for nearly the first half of this distance by a comparatively easy line along the contour lines of the hill, but on the last half mile falls down the precipitous slopes of a rocky ravine to cultivated land. This is the most dangerous part of the whole line, and will require much work on it to be made properly passable for transport animals. There is barely room for the loads in some places to clear the solid rock of the hill side.

2d. Descent from Assahara to terraced and cultivated level, 7 furlongs, 10 yards.

3d. Rise over terraced and cultivated ground, 3 furlongs, 89 yards.

4th. Final fall into the Ashangi valley, 4 furlongs, 10 yards.

baggage animals used both without accident.

Road generally through cultivated fields, some of them with the barley nearly ripe, others with the crop just springing above the ground. There is high terraced ground for encampment south of the villages of Ainee Mai, near the fine brook of water which here rushes down the hill side.

5th. Along the valley of Ashangi to the two villages of Ainee Mai, 1 mile, 4 furlongs, 94 yards.

* The guide called this part Marra and Sennee Ashangi. It is about 168 feet lower than the Aynee Mai ground.

This space is open, and leads to the head of a second bad ravine.

There are two lines down this, one very steep directly down the ravine, the other easier, but very narrow and difficult, winding round by the village of Ashangi. The

Water cannot be obtained from the lake itself at the market ground, both on account of the distance of the lake from the encamping ground in question, and the unapproachable character of its western shore, it being deep mud, in which a man suddenly sinks up to his hips.

The hills that surround the lake are dotted with villages, which, in most instances, are stockaded as a defence against Galla inroads.

Having arrived at Ashangi, I commenced making inquiries regarding the best route to Magdala, as already reported, and learnt from the head man of Ainee Mai (Ashangi district) that first into the Wofela plain, and thence across the Wonherat plateau, Arkotta range, to Lat, Duffat, Atsmaygalla and Dildee was the line usually followed by large armies.

On comparing this with the information already received from the Political Department, I found it to correspond closely. There was another line furnished, however, by General Merewether, from Ashangi to Dildee, by Mount Sarenga which, under the circumstances, I thought it best to have surveyed, and I, therefore, detached Captain McGregor with a detachment of the Belooch Battalion, for the purpose, under the instructions already reported. His report of it, when received, will be forwarded for His Excellency's perusal.

The first march from Ainee Mai (Ashangi), *en route* to Magdalla, is to Meesageeta, in the Wofela plain; distance, 7 miles, 6 furlongs, 167 yards. Surveyed 17th March.

Detailed description is as follows:—

1st. From Ainee Mai, down the Ashangi valley, to the market place of the valley, 1 mile, 3 furlongs, 100 yards.

2d. A succession of rises and falls along the base of the Tsulgee hills to the foot of the steep pass of Enda Moora, 1 mile, 1 furlong, 92 yards.

cross one fine brook, flowing into the lake, shortly after passing the market ground.

3d. From the foot of Tselga pass to top; distance, 1 furlong, 100 yards; rise, in feet, 318.

owing to the rocky character of the ground.

The point of arrival at the shore of lake, is in what appears to have been at one time a discharge channel for the overflow of the lake down the Tsulgee valley westwards.

4th. Down the Tsulgee valley to shore of lake, 1 mile 5 furlongs, 120 yards.

The bed is now 30 or 40 feet above the lake. The part of the road, as per margin, is not very rough or bad.

Road very good. Lake unapproachable for the purpose of using the water, owing to the depth of mud on the edge. Mount Wofela rises to 1,200 or 1,500 feet above the road at this part.

5th. Along western shore of lake to the large village of Wofela, on a high hill to left, 2 miles, 100 yards.

No grass, and very little water, at Wofela, except that of the lake, which cannot be approached by men or animals for the purpose of using it. About $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles further on, at Meesageeta, there is plenty of grass, and an abundant water supply. At Wofela enter the extensive valley of that name, which includes Meesageeta and other small districts. The valley is open and undulating; deep black soil, terraced for cultivation, with green grass at the springs of the water.

Second day's march from Ashangi to Magdalla, Meesageeta to the Lat valley, 7 miles, 7 furlongs, 24 yards. Surveyed 18th March. Meesageeta is 8,026 feet above the sea, highest point attained *en route*, on the Arkotte hills. 9,200 feet difference, 1,194 feet rise.

Fall to Lat, 1,278. Camp at Lat being 8,478 feet above the sea.

met with before reaching it from the Meesageeta (Wofela) side.

The details of the route are as follows:—

1st. From camp at Meesageeta to second village of Meesageeta, 1 mile, 1 furlong, 19 yards.

2d. Rise over steep terrace ground to foot of hill near stream, 1 furlong, 207 yards.

3d. Up first ascent of hill, 2 furlongs, 85 yards. Rise in feet, 212.

4th. Up second ascent, 2 furlongs, 52 yards. Rise, 318 feet.

5th. Along narrow path to Adda Waka, 2 furlongs, 187 yards. precipitous. The rise here is slight.

6th. From Adda Waka to first stream of water, 4 furlongs, 164 yards.

Then a most rugged and steep fall to the ravine.

7th. Across a rise to second stream of water, 5 furlongs, 141 yards.

8th. Rise to Wonhare plateau, 3 furlongs, 215 yards. Rise 500 feet. up without accident and in good time.

There is a fine, open, well cultivated plateau on these hills. The headman and villagers came out with friendly salutations, and accompanied us to the border of their plateau.

9th. Across Wonhare to a high point on the Arkotta hills, 6 furlongs, 180 yards.

1,000 or 1,200 feet into the Arkotta valley, to the right.

10th. Along the Arkotta hills to top of descent to the Lat valley, 2 miles, 23 yards.

Road very steep, rocky, and in parts narrow. It is covered with loose stones and fragments of

11th. Final, descent into Lat valley, 2 furlongs, 150 yards.

Road partly good and partly rough, by the side of green crops. The best encampment is on the right bank of the Aragua, before reaching the main village of the Lat

valley, which is $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles further, where there is too much cultivated ground for encampment near the water.

Separate reports having been forwarded to His Excellency, of proceedings at Lat on the 19th instant, I proceed to report on the third day's march from Ashangi, *en route* to Magdalla.

From Camp Lat to Asgan Galla; distance, 8 miles, 2 furlongs, 54 yards. Rise from Lat to top of Duffat pass, 980 feet. Fall from Duffat to Asgangalla, 2,100 by thermometer, 1,900 by aneroid. Surveyed, 20th March.

miles, where the road is narrow and steep, and obstructed by rocks and trees, which must be removed.

The first fall of a mile on the Assangalla is not very steep or difficult; after that, it is steeper, and covered with loose stones, which try the animals very much.

There is no large quantity of water between the Lat river and the Dsezzanee, at the foot of the Duffat and Assangalla hill, which will make it difficult for the working parties. The village of Duffat is on a spur below the Amba Duffat, at the head of pass, and has a little water but not much, and off the road. There are two small springs on the ascent from Lat to Duffat, but they would not give enough water for a strong working party.

The banks of the Dsezzanee, near this camp, are very steep, difficult, and narrow. There will be a great check to the advance of the troops and baggage if a road is not cut across this stream. Between it and Camp Atsmaygalla there are three or four very steep and trying ascents and descents, the narrow road being sometimes on the verge of a ravine having a precipitous fall of 200

This is quite as difficult and trying a march as any we have yet had, not only owing to the height attained on the Wonherat plateau, but the very steep and rugged ascents and descents

Road good, except last part, which is rather steep.

Road very bad, across a rocky spur, from which it falls into the narrow pass below Adda Guffarree.

A steep, and in parts a dangerous, zig-zag. A new line should be marked out.

Very steep and rugged; some mules fell; a path should be marked out.

Road narrow and dangerous along the open hill side, which, in parts, is

First part along the open hill side, with one or two dangerous places.

Partly rugged and partly good ground. The rise and fall very trying.

A most rugged and steep ascent; notwithstanding, all the mules came

Parts of this are steep and rugged, parts easy, along the open hill side or down rocky spurs. Road too narrow throughout.

rock, and towards the bottom with thick jungle. A good deal of clearing required. The best encampment is on the right bank of the Aragua, before reaching the main village of the Lat

or 300 feet. The country between Atsmaygalla and Dildee is a network of such spurs and ravines, more trying, perhaps, to baggage animals than the continuous ascents or descents of the larger hills. The main work on this march will be in the last three miles.

The detailed distances of this march are as follows:—

Road rough for the first part, across two fine brooks, the Aroqua, and a tributary of the Tecazze, which bears the same name. Owing to the narrowness of the path, a good deal of work is required for

the first half mile; the rest plain.

Gradient easy, except near top, here the road is steep and difficult. Loose stones to be removed.

2d. To top of Lat pass, 1 mile, 4 furlongs, 54 yards.

3d. To top of Duffat pass.

4th. To top of first descent into the Asangalla valley, 5 furlongs, 116 yards.

5th. Fall to River Dsezzaree, 2 miles, 5 furlongs, 92 yards.

Part of this is steep and narrow, and will have to be made.

Rough in places, but easy gradient. Has been described above.

The worst part of the line, I think, occurs here, owing to the very abrupt ascents and descents, and the precipitous cross sections of some of the spurs. The hills and valleys

6th. To Camp Asangalla, 1 mile, 2 furlong, 146 yards.

in these lower levels are prettily though not thickly wooded. The falling off of the water supply, and the consequent absence of green turf near the water sources, is very marked. The ravines are from 50 to 300 feet deep. The Dsezzaree is a fine brook of clear good water; it has the name of Asangalla, where the camp site has been selected; being confined between deep banks, its fertilizing influence is lost to the general level of the fields above.

At Asangalla there is no grass, and a small quantity of grain has been procured, with much difficulty, by promising a present to a villager for collecting what he could. He has only six or seven dollars' worth of grain, and some barley straw. It is hoped that there will be more supplies at Dildee. Since writing the above, the Chief of the village, Bullata Kassa, who, it appears, was absent when I arrived, has paid me a visit, and, in the meantime, more grain than we require has been brought in. I presented him with two dollars, and begged of him to exert himself to collect grain and straw at once for the coming troops, which he promised to do. I added, that if he made himself useful in this way, I would mention his name to the Commander-in-Chief for further reward, which seemed to please him very much.

Accompaniments:—

1. Sketch of route from Mukhan Doha to Camp Lat.
2. Sketch of Lat valley.

No. 49.

The Military Secretary, India Office,

To His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

No. 2,715.

Sir,

India Office, 1st May 1868.

With reference to the 5th paragraph of my letter* to your Excellency's address of this day, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state that it has been determined that two Officers shall be deputed by the War Department to proceed with all despatch, with a view of being associated with such Officers as may be appointed on the part of the Government of India, to consider and determine the question of the disposal of the public stores of all kinds collected for the use of the expedition; and I am to forward, for your Excellency's information, and for communication to those Officers, a statement of general instructions as to the principles by which their proceedings should be regulated. Considering the nature of the climate, the extreme importance of expedition in this matter, and the impossibility of laying down, at this distance, absolute rules for the disposal of every description of public property that may have been collected on this occasion, it has been considered advisable to leave to these Officers considerable latitude. Their proceedings, however, have been made subject to the confirmation of your Excellency, and, in the case of strictly naval stores, to that of the Senior Naval Officer on the spot.

2. It may be well to inform your Excellency that, while all stores furnished on this occasion by the Government of India, or purchased by Officers under your Excellency's orders, will become, in the first instance, a charge against Imperial Revenues; all those, on the other hand, sent from this country are the absolute

*No. 2,703.

property of the British Government. No payments have been made on their account by this Office, as would have been done had they been supplied in the usual manner for Indian service.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,
Major-General,
Military Secretary.

P.S. The arrangements necessary for the disposal of the stores, as finally determined upon by your Excellency, on the report of the Commissioners, will be carried out under such instructions as your Excellency may think proper to give, after communication (in regard to naval stores and arrangements), with the Commodore or Senior Naval Officer on the spot. The Officers sent from this country will not be charged with either the custody or the disposal of any of the stores.

T. T. P.

ENCLOSURE.

General Instructions for the guidance of the Officers appointed by the Imperial and Indian Governments, respectively, to consider the question of the disposal of the public Stores collected at Zoulla.

1. The stores in question may be thus classified :—

1. Arms and equipments in use with the troops from and returning to India.
2. Arms and equipments taken to Abyssinia by troops which proceeded from and return to this country.
3. Arms and equipments sent from this country for this special service, and issued to troops which went to Abyssinia from India, but which return direct to India.
4. Arms, ammunition, and equipments sent from India to Abyssinia as reserve.
5. Arms, ammunition, and equipments sent from England as reserve.
6. Ordnance, Commissariat, and miscellaneous stores sent from India for the occasion, or purchased by Officers of the force.
7. Ordnance, Commissariat, and miscellaneous stores sent from England for the occasion.
8. Baggage animals of all kinds.

2. The principles that should be observed in disposing of the above are as follows :—

- No. 1. It is assumed that all these will revert to the Indian Government on the return of the troops to that country.
- No. 2. Such of these as it may be necessary to leave in the hands of the troops will be brought back by them to England. The remainder will either be sent to India to be taken at a valuation by the Government, or returned to England, as the Commissioners may decide.
- No. 3. Will be brought back by the troops to this country, unless it be thought desirable to hand any of them over to the Indian Government.
- No. 4. Will be returned to India to be received back by the Indian Government at a valuation.
- No. 5. Will be either returned to England or taken by the Government of India at a valuation, as the Commissioners may decide.
- No. 6. These articles must be separately considered according to their description and condition. All that can be accepted for the public service in India to be taken over on the part of the Indian Government at a valuation. The rest to be disposed of as the Commissioners shall think best in the interest of the public service, either by return to England, by sale on the spot or elsewhere, or by destruction.
- No. 7. The same as in regard to No. 6.
- No. 8. All these that can be advantageously accepted for the public service in India to be sent to that country; the remainder to be disposed of by sale or otherwise, as the Commissioners may think best in the interests of the public service.

3. In all cases, the decision of the Commissioners should be submitted for the concurrence of the Commander-in-Chief, or, in his absence, of the Senior Officer in Command, Naval or Military, according to the nature of the articles.

4. It is obvious that, in considering the above questions, as regards bulky and perishable commodities, the most important considerations will be the amount of transport actually available, the time required for the disposal of the whole of the articles, and the probable expense that will be incurred in providing for their safety during that time.

5. As it is probable that the Officers at Zoulla may not be in possession of full information as to the value of stores, it will be convenient and sufficient if the Commissioners in making the valuation for stores to be made over to the Indian Government, simply state the per-centage (if any) by which the full value is to be reduced.

6. The several Governments of India will be instructed to cause an accurate report to be made of the quantity of articles of every description brought back from Abyssinia, and taken over by them at the above valuation.

7. The account between the two Governments will then be adjusted by the Finance Department in India, with whom an Officer on the part of the Treasury has been already associated for that purpose.

8. The amount realized from the sales of stores and of cattle of every description will be paid over to the Indian Government as credits in reduction of the cost of the expedition.

9. In case the Commissioners should consider that a better price can be realized for stores or cattle by despatching them to India or other places, taking into account the cost of freight, it will be within their province, subject to the sanction of the General commanding, to order the same.

10. The vessels now laden with provisions, stores, &c., should be directed to return to the ports in India from whence the stores were embarked, and the Government of India instructed to take them over at a valuation, or dispose of them by sale, crediting the Imperial Government with the proceeds.

N.B. Refers to vessels not having broken bulk.

11. With a view to facilitate the examination and audit of accounts, it is very advisable that proper lists, duly certified to by the Commissioners, and approved by the Officer commanding, should be prepared, as correctly as possible, for all stores abandoned, destroyed, sold, or otherwise disposed of.

By order of the Secretary of State for India.

T. T. PEARS, Major-General,
Military Secretary.

India Office,
1st May 1868.

No. 50.

No. 2,704.

The Secretary of State for India,
To His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Expeditionary
Force, Abyssinia.

Sir,

India Office, 1st May 1868.

Para. 1. I have received your Excellency's telegraphic messages, reporting the defeat of the Abyssinian Forces, the liberation of the captives, the successful assault on Magdala, and the death of King Theodore.

2. I have already conveyed to you by telegraph, a message of congratulation which Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen was pleased personally to charge me with. I have also expressed my own thanks and congratulation on behalf of the Government. I enclose copies of these telegrams.

3. I await, with interest, the fuller particulars of these important events, which your Excellency has no doubt forwarded to me.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

ENCLOSURES.

The Secretary of State for India to Sir ROBERT NAPIER, 27th April 1868.

The Queen sends hearty congratulations and thanks to Sir Robert Napier and his gallant force, on their brilliant success.

I congratulate your Excellency with all my heart. You have taught us, once more, what is meant by an army that can go anywhere and do anything. From first to last, all has been done well. I must ask leave for a motto. My own suggestion would be "Qualis ab incepto."

No. 51.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 4th May 1868).
Political, No. 21.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp Dalanta,
5th April 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour, in continuation of Despatch, No. 20, dated Camp Santra, the 29th ultimo, to report that the head quarters marched from Santra, with the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, on the 31st ultimo.

2. On the 2d instant, while my camp was at Sindieh, the Dajazmaj Mashasha paid me a visit, attended by about two hundred horse. After he had left my camp, he distributed his followers, according to custom, among the surrounding villages, to pass the night. It so happened that about one hundred of his cavalry, having thus separated from the rest, crossed, on their way to a village, in front of a picquet of the 2d Brigade which had encamped during that day within two miles of my own position, and was not informed of the visit of the Dajazmaj to our camp. Owing to the general idea entertained by our soldiers that Theodore might very likely attempt a sudden attack, the picquet was on the alert, and when they saw an armed body of Abyssinians approach, and either no answer at all, or else no answer such as they could understand, was returned to their challenges, they mistook them for an enemy, and advanced against them in skirmishing order. One of the troopers of our picquet fired upon the Abyssinians, shooting one man dead with a ball through his forehead, while another of our troopers attacked one of them with his sword, and wounded him severely in two places. The Abyssinians then fled, and the picquet contented itself with following them to some distance from their position, happily without any more blows being struck. This *contretemps* is very much to be regretted. Full explanations have been made to the Dajaz Mashasha; and he has expressed himself satisfied. The relatives of the unfortunate victim of the accident have been compensated for their loss. The wounded man is being cared for in our own field hospital at Sindieh, and is expected to recover. Measures have been taken, by the stationing of recognized Abyssinians at every picquet, to reduce to the minimum the risk of such an occurrence happening again. Proper notice has been taken of the want of knowledge of their duty shown by the picquet on this occasion.

3. Copy of a letter addressed by me to King Theodorus on the 3d instant is herewith submitted (Appendix A.). The object aimed at was neither to exasperate him or render him desperate on the one hand, nor yet give him grounds for misconstruing our intentions with respect to him on the other. Such is the fear in which he is held, that no Abyssinian letter-carrier would undertake to convey to him my letter. Indeed, I am not certain if it will reach him. But I expect it to be conveyed to him by a female messenger whom M. Munzinger, after himself carrying it to within a short distance of Magdala, was to employ to deliver it to the King.

4. Copies of the only letters of an official character, or containing intelligence, which have arrived from Magdala since the date of my last Despatch, are herewith submitted (Appendix B.). The unfettering of Mr. Rassam's companions by order of the King is the principal news they contain.

5. Yesterday's march was one of the most trying we have yet made. Expresses from the Chief of Dalanta informed me that Theodore was forming a camp north of Magdala, and that there were all the signs of an expedition. I, therefore, resolved upon a forced march, in order to gain the opposite bank of the River Jidda. The river itself was no obstacle, as its channel is nearly dry; but it lies at the bottom of a broad chasm about 3,400 feet deep, and eight miles wide, which separates the plateaux of Wadela and Dalanta. The descent is down the face of almost a sheer precipice. Even with the help of the road recently constructed by Theodore for the conveyance of his guns across the river, the passage proved very difficult for laden animals; and the road in some parts of the ascent had been so destroyed by torrents as to be scarcely passable. Had Theodore taken up a position on the opposite bank, we could only have forced the ascent at some loss. Our march was one of about eighteen miles, although this gives no conception of the labour and fatigue entailed upon the troops in passing over such a difficult tract of ground. The column left camp in the morning, and the rearguard did not reach this till 24 hours afterwards.

6. A halt is necessary, both to rest and concentrate the force. It is at present raining heavily.

7. On our arrival here last night, the prospect of our being able to feed our troops and their cattle seemed unpromising. We had all day been passing over ground which bore traces, in the shape of piles of half-wasted forage, trees cut down almost to a stump for the sake of firewood, roofless villages, and temporary huts of soldiers still standing, that Theodore's army had recently been there. But before we had been twelve hours on the ground, we succeeded in reassuring the people; and a few hidden stores of grass and corn, which the soldiers of Theodore had failed to extract from them, begin now to be brought into our camp for sale.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Appendix A.

Copy of Letter from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army to King Theodorus.

Camp Wadela, 3d April 1868.

From, &c., &c., to King Theodorus.

By command of the Queen of England, I am approaching Magdala with my army, in order to recover from your hands Envoy Rassam, Consul Cameron, Dr. Blanc, Lieutenant Prideaux, and the other Europeans now in your Majesty's power.

I request your Majesty to send them to my camp, as soon as it is sufficiently near to admit of their coming in safety.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commanding the English Army in Abyssinia.

Appendix B.

Copies of Letters received in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's Camp, on the 3d and 5th April 1868.

No. 1.

Mr. RASSAM to General MEREWETHER.

My dear General,

Magdalla, 1st April 1868.

* * * The King came up again to Magdalla on Sunday morning the 29th instant, when he brought with him all his European artisans, and the *élite* of his remaining army (which is said now to consist of about 6,000 men. He was in an awful mood, in consequence of his anger against some of my fellow captives. A silk tent was pitched as soon as he came up, in front of our compounds, and the best carpets that could be found were spread in front of it. As he passed our quarter, he sent to me Mr. Flad, to say that he had come up to settle some business, and if he could find time, he would have an interview with me. Soon after that, he sent me Mr. Mager, to say that he wanted to see me in the same dress (uniform) in which I used to appear before him formerly. He further said, that his sole reason for having ill-treated me, was to compel England to send troops against him, and his object is now gained. As soon as I was dressed, Betwaded Kasorree, the new Commander-in-Chief of Magdalla, came to say that his royal master was ready to see me. Every one trembled as to the upshot of my first meeting with His Majesty, and we all feared that I should have a stormy interview. However, no sooner I approached the royal pavilion, wherein the King was standing with his European servants, than his countenance changed, and he put on, for the occasion, a most pleasant face. He received me standing, and, for the first time he shook hands with me in the European style. He then sat down, and asked me to sit next to him on his right hand. He said, the reason he did not allow his throne to be placed there on that occasion was because he wished to sit on the same level with me, who was his friend and the representative of the Queen of England. He called afterwards for tej, which was served in the very glasses I had brought for him, and after he ordered one to be filled, he drank of it a little himself, and then handed it over to me, and said that, in Abyssinia drinking mead together is a sign of friendship. His politeness on the occasion was most stupendous. His face exhibited nothing but sweet smiles, save only when he mentioned the late Aboon, the Rev. Mr. Stern, and Cameron. On these occasions I set forth soothing arguments, which cooled him down. It is quite needless to bother you now with everything was said on that interview, because it will only be waste of time, and unnecessary for the matter in hand. He alluded to the war three or four times. Sometimes he said that he would fight, even at the chance of being conquered, and at other times he declared that it would be absurd for him to fight against a disciplined army. In either case, he said, I should "remain his friend." "One day," he added, "you may see me dead, and, while you stand by my corpse, you curse me for having ill-treated you;

"you may say at the time, this wicked man ought not to be buried, and let his remains rot above ground." But I trust to your generosity."

I reiterated my hope to him, that as I came to him for friendship's sake, I shall leave him peacefully. He then said to me, that I had brought with me two persons for whom he had neither love nor hatred; but as they had come to this country with me, he would take off their chains for my sake, provided I stood security for them. I replied, that, as they were my companions, he would please me greatly if he would rid them of the fetters, and as for my being their security, "if they now do anything to displease your Majesty, do not lay the blame on them but on me; say that, Mr. Rassam has committed this fault, and not Dr. Blanc and Mr. Prideaux, and so I hope you will order their release at once." He asked me immediately to name any of the bystanders to go and release them, so I named Flad and Aito Samuel (being the two persons who have always served us faithfully). His Majesty sent with them the new Chief of Magdalla, who brought them, after half an hour's waiting, dressed in their uniforms. They were received well, and were assured by the King that they had nothing to fear, however the fortunes of the war may turn. "You three be of good cheer, because you are my children, and you came to me when you knew that I had imprisoned Mr. Cameron, and were cognizant of his doings." He then said to me, I am like a woman in the family way, who may bring forth a son, a daughter, or die of a miscarriage. I wish you to assist me to bring forth a son." He added also that "A person may die when he is young, or when he is old, and some are carried off in the prime of their lives, and I hope that I shall not be of those who breathe their last just at the time when they are most vigorous." The King then introduced to me Dajaz Alamees (the Prince Imperial and the real heir to the throne, as he is the son of Dajaz Oubre's daughter to whom the King was married in accordance with the rules of the Abyssinian Church), and told him to escort us back to our house. He is a nice youth, about eight years of age, and promises to be of greater weight than his eldest brother, Ras Masheesha. We heard after we returned to our house, that His Majesty got into a great rage again and boasted, that he would lick our troops. On the morning of the 30th he sent for Messrs. Staiger, Brandeis, Schiller Essler, and Makerer, and told them that if they worked with him he would release them of their chains. They consented at once, and went down to the Royal Camp in hand chains, each fettered to an Abyssinian. Yesterday afternoon, the King sent to ask me, if I would become their security he would keep them without chains. I refused to stand security for people who were working for him, and on whom I have no control. I have not yet received an answer. It is expected that the five remaining prisoners in chains (Cameron and Messrs. Stern, Rosenthal, and Peter) will be opened in a day or two. Now, I must revert to the real business. I am generally advised to write immediately to you for a polite letter to the King, apprising him of your approach and of the object in view. The letter should be cautiously worded, and if possible, insert in it some "blarney," as Bob is awfully vain, and it may prove useful in case you arrive here when the moon is full. No Amharic translation should be sent, because the letter could be translated here by some competent Europeans and Natives, who will be able to render certain expressions into Amharic mildly. Our friend should be addressed as a King, as he still considers himself greater than one. Kindly ask Sir R. Napier to write to Bob direct, and to lose no time in doing so, that is to say, if this letter reaches you after you have crossed the Tacazeh. The letter which I have with me I am advised not to deliver at all, as it is strong. I hope that both you and general Napier will pardon me for writing to you about matters which do not lie in my province. Our difficult position and our anxiety to prevent any mishap to our safety have compelled me to meddle in the matter of your communication with the great Emperor. Please do not forget the milk. It is the best present you can send me. On one page, any immaterial news can be written, and the second and third pages can be used for important communications. We still occupy the same houses. * * * * * I must now say good bye, and hope now that before many days are over, you will be able to have a review before our mutual friend. Thank God, both my fellow prisoners and myself are well.

H. RASSAM.

No. 2.

The same to the same.

My dear Colonel,

Magdala, 2d April 1868.

This morning the King sent and invited me to go down to Salangee with Blanc and Prideaux, to see the great mortar brought up with the other large cannons, and we went down at eight o'clock. We saw him superintending the making of the road for bringing up the huge mortar. It would have made your heart glad to see with what energy he was making his people work both in levelling the road and in drawing up the enormous waggon. One part of the road was so steep, that I thought every now and then the whole thing would fly back in spite of the 500 men who were trying to pull it up. We were received with great politeness, and asked to sit down on an acclivity, and see what was going on. No sooner the men began to pull, and the mortar was plainly seen, than His Majesty asked me what I thought of it, and of the road making. Of course, I praised the royal labour, and said that I hoped in a few days our troops would be looking on that great mortar with the same friendly admiration as I was then enjoying. He seemed greatly pleased at my remark, because he immediately repeated it to his favourite European servant, Mr. Waldemir. Soon after that I found a good opportunity of asking him to "gladden my heart" by releasing the five remaining captives of their chains. He immediately acceded to my request, and ordered the following persons to be unfettered, viz., Cameron, and Messrs. Stern, Rosenthal, Kerans, and Petro.

After the mortar was taken up to Salangce, His Imperial Majesty got Prideaux, Blanc, and myself to go upon the waggon, and examine that wonderful piece of artillery. I had to send him a message on the occasion, which was that, since his forefather, Manilek, until now, nothing so extraordinary was made in Abyssinia. Afterwards, the King sat on the edge of a declivity, to watch the bringing up of the remaining guns and shot, and he asked Prideaux, and Blanc, and I to sit by him, and have a chat. He opened the subject of the invasion of Abyssinia by British troops, and said, had his power been as strong as it was a few years ago, he would have certainly asked the English what business they had in this country, and would have gone to meet them on landing; but now, having lost all Abyssinia, and only this rock left in his possession, he could not do otherwise than to wait for them. He then inquired about the European warfare, and how peace was made between two contending parties. He then asked about the number of our troops, and their manœuvres. The first question I answered, but with regard to the second, I said that, as I was not a military man, I was not able to enlighten him on the subject. I then spoke to him about the elephants, and the bands, and said that His Majesty would be pleased to hear the beautiful music. When I mentioned the first, he smiled, but with regard to the second he sighed, and said, "Only God knows what will happen." He then looked at the guns, and said, "You must not think I have made these for any enmity towards your people. I only had them made on account of my countrymen." After this, he asked us to go and have some breakfast, in a silk tent which he had pitched for us near his. Soon after we entered the tent, he sent to tell us that he wished to fire a salute for me, in commemoration of the happy day on which he met me again in health and prosperity. Seven guns were fired, and, if report speaks true, your Pioneers, who are said to be in Dalanta to-day, must have heard the report of the big cannons. The King is now encamping in the plain between Sellasee and Magdala, and he is not expected to come up here or send his big mortar to this fortress. On the contrary, yesterday he took down all the guns and mortars, which seems as if he was going to make a regular defence there. To me he generally says that his object is peace, but, behind my back, I believe, he boasts, in order that his people might not get into a funk. We all hope that the Commander-in-Chief will write to the King a friendly letter, and give him a little confidence, and we have no doubt that everything will terminate peaceably. By the bye, the King told me, through his Tigreh people, that you are bringing a great number of buffaloes for dragging the cannons. I told him that I heard nothing about them. If Sir R. Napier should be writing to His Majesty, please ask him to write only in English, because the letter could be better translated here by Mr. Flad and others, who know Amharic well. We came up to our old prison house again about three o'clock in the afternoon, and both the old and new Commanders-in-Chief of the fortress escorted us up, with Mr. Waldemir and Flad. I examined the road up to this rock more minutely this morning. The rock is much steeper than I thought, and longer, and between the two gates the path is very difficult of ascent; a mule can go up laden, but with great difficulty. Between the Salassee promontory and Magdala is more than a mile. I believe I said to you before, that it was only half a mile. There is a report that the King intends to take us down to live with him. If this change take place, I will let you know at once. I may not be able to write; but I will send you a messenger with a verbal message. * *

Everything is quiet this evening in our compound, as the rattling of chains is no more heard. All are well, and looking for that happy hour of seeing you with anxiety. * * *

H. RASSAM.

P.S.—In the afternoon the King sent me a message by Mrs. Waldemir and Flad, and said a little fire as small as a pea is apt to create a great conflagration, if it is not put out immediately. His Majesty told me also, when we were having a chat, that when he is excited he is not responsible for his actions.

3d. Friday morning.—I have just sent a message to the King by Messrs. Flad and Waldemir, to tell him that if he like I will write to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces about His Majesty's polite reception of my companions and myself yesterday. It is thought that this message would please him. It is said that His Majesty is going out to plunder. He may go as far as Daoot.

Yours,
H. R.

Take care of a sudden or night attack—pioneers in particular.

H. R.

3d April 1868.

No. 3.

MRS. FLAD to Captain CAMERON.

Dear Sir,

2d April 1868.

A report reached us this morning that your chains, and those of your fellow prisoners, were going to be taken off. Is it merely a report, or going to be done? I hope you will right soon lose them for ever. How shall we look at each other when this dark night of misery is past, and the morning of liberty dawns in brightness upon us! There is great boasting in the King's camp, and among the soldiers, I learn from different persons. Poor wretches! What a different tune they will sing when once they will be greeted by the English troops. Yesterday night we had a visit from Dajazmaj B— (our head watchman), who fully expressed his hope that the English army would be defeated. They rely in fanaticism to a prediction of their that the Turks would

come to invade their country, but that God would send such a destruction among them for seven years the Abyssinians would have to pick up the bones of their enemies' carcases, &c.

May God blind them to believe their own lies! Poor Staiger and his companions have every evening to undergo the painful operation of getting the chains beaten on and in the morning to have them taken off, an outrageous sign of friendship, isn't it? My husband has gone down to show himself once more.

P FLAD.

No. 52.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 4th May 1868).

No. 986.

Sir,

Camp, Scindee, 3d April 1868.

I have the honour to submit the accompanying reports on the several Departments working under the orders of the Quartermaster-General's Department, Abyssinian Field Force, together with a distribution map, showing the disposition, on the 1st instant, of the several Corps in Abyssinia.

I have, &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
commanding Abyssinia Field Force.

Report on the several Departments working under the orders of the Quartermaster-General's Department, Abyssinian Field Force.

Camp, Abdikoom, April 1st 1868.

Land Transport Corps.

The last return received from the Director, Transport Train, dated 14th instant, shows,

5,322 camels,
10,309 mules,
1,460 ponies,
6,037 pack bullocks,
534 draught bullocks,
15 donkeys,
273 mule carts,
270 bullock carts,

in the Corps, being an increase of—

640 camels,
506 mules,
516 ponies,
1,759 pack bullocks,
15 donkeys,
8 bullock carts,

since date of last report.

Of these, 6,503 mules are already on duty with the highland train, which, since the date of last report, has been ordered to work from Addigerat to the front, the lowland train being employed for the whole distance from Zoolla to Addigerat. 500 mules of the highland train are reported sick, and the number of sick animals in the lowland train is as follows:—

1,856 mules and ponies,
897 bullocks,
264 camels.

Orders have been issued for the highland train to be completed, if possible, to 8,000 mules, to work south of Antalo, and all sick animals in the highland train not likely to be fit for work within a month are being sent down to Zoolla, to avoid the necessity of carrying up provisions for the muleteers in charge of them.

Conventions for the carriage of Commissariat stores in advance of Antalo have been made with the natives of the country from Antalo to Attala, Attala to Ashangi, Ashangi to Lat, Lat to Dildee, Dildee to Tacazze, and from Tacazze on to Bet Hor.

The convention from Attala to Ashangi broke down about the 20th ultimo, but arrangements are now being made for another convention between these two stations.

The Officer sent to Berbera to purchase animals for the transport train has succeeded in obtaining 1,069 bullocks and 15 donkeys: he is continuing to purchase animals of this description there, but reports that the resources of the place have been very much over-rated, that mules and ponies are very scarce, and the few he has seen have been of the very worst description. Camels, he

states, can be purchased in large numbers, but no report of the number obtained has yet been received.

Another Officer, sent to Hodeida, has succeeded in purchasing about 400 powerful camels, which by this time ought to have been landed at Zoolla.

Nearly the whole of the mules of the highland train are employed in moving troops, ammunition, &c., on to the front, and those of the lowland train in conveying Commissariat stores and provisions from Zoolla to Addigerat and the intermediate stations.

Railway.

The Commanding Engineer reports that on the 21st ultimo 8 miles and 80 yards of the railway from Zoolla to Koomaylee had been completed, leaving 3 miles 1,680 yards of the line still to be completed, and that the earthwork had been completed for the whole distance. The Commissariat were working six trains a day, carrying provisions, &c., in addition to which other trains conveying military plant to the Koomaylee end of the line were being run daily.

Telegraph.

The last report, dated 22d ultimo, regarding the telegraph, states that the line had been completed to Agoola, 35 miles from Antalo on that date, and Lieutenant St. John, R.E., the Officer in charge, expected that it would reach Antalo yesterday, the 31st ultimo; he reports that the line has been working fairly during the last week, though two or more interruptions have occurred between Senafé and Addigerat; he estimates the traffic in the line roughly at 200 messages per diem.

Photographers and Signallers.

The photographers have been employed in photographing, printing, and mounting plans executed by the Quartermaster-General's Department, of the route followed by the army; these plans are used as distribution maps.

All the baggage of the army having been left at Lat, the photographic apparatus was left there also, but has since been ordered up.

The signallers have lately on several occasions proved very useful in communicating and passing orders between the 1st and 2d Brigades when one march distant from the other.

Well Sinkers.

As far as Antalo, works for the water supply have been executed, and extra works have been carried out at Rayraguddy and Sooroo in addition to those previously mentioned, owing to the diminution in the supply of the springs originally utilized. Beyond Antalo, with but few exceptions, the supply of water at the various camping grounds is abundant. Roads for mules have been made to and from the water, and arrangements for a readier access and greater facility of drinking made.

The demand for water at Rayraguddy and Sooroo has been greater than was originally intended, but the supply is now sufficient to meet these demands. The quantity now obtainable in the Koomaylee pass is less than it was two months ago, excepting the station of Undul Wells. The supply at this station being as full as ever.

At the encamping grounds where the water was liable to become fouled, owing to the scanty supply, pumps were driven to afford drinking water to the force, and drawn again the next morning previous to marching.

Trigonometrical Survey.

Lieutenant Carter, R.E., the Officer in charge of the Trigonometrical Survey, is carrying on a traverse with theodolite, and making a rough sketch of the country from Antalo to the front. On the 29th ultimo he had reached Lat. His assistants, Lieutenants Dummier and Holdich, were working, the former from Antalo towards Addigerat, and the latter from Addigerat to Antalo, and hoped to complete a junction by the middle of this month, so that, in the event of the early termination of the campaign, a correct survey will have been completed from Zoolla to Antalo.

Postal Department.

The post is carried by two sowars from station to station, averaging a distance of from 10 to 15 miles. The 10th Bengal Cavalry take it from Zoolla to Addigerat; the 12th Bengal Cavalry, from Addigerat to Ashangi; and the 3d Bombay Cavalry, from Ashangi to the front. All the riding ponies in the lowland train have been ordered to be distributed along the postal stations, for the purpose of carrying heavier bags containing newspapers and parcels along with the sowars on duty. The last post received has taken nine days from Zoolla to this station, the sowars, *en route*, are often much delayed, meeting troops and convoys of stores moving up to the front; the road or footpath across the hills being, in many places, so narrow that it is impossible, or would be very dangerous for two animals to pass each other.

Distribution of the Abyssinian Force on this day.—The whole force in Abyssinia on this date consists of 10,800 fighting men, and 14,500 followers attached to the Land Transport Train, Commissariat Department, regiments, &c.

The head quarters of the army, with the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, are to-day encamped at Abdikoom, about 35 miles from Magdalla by the route to be traversed, and about 18 miles in a direct line.

1st Brigade, 1st Division.

Brigadier-General Schneider, commanding.

Troops.

3d Regiment, Sind Horse	-	-	-	-	-	-	208
Head Quarters Wing, 12th Bengal Cavalry	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Naval Brigade Rocket Battery	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
A. Battery, 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, steel 7-pounder guns	-	-	-	-	-	-	122
Head Quarters, 10th Company, Royal Engineers	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
4th King's Own Regiment	-	-	-	-	-	-	530
23d Regiment, Punjab Pioneers	-	-	-	-	-	-	671
Head Quarters Wing, 27th Native Infantry, Belooch Regiment	-	-	-	-	-	-	327
							2,123

The head quarters of the 1st Division, under the command of Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B., with the 2d Brigade, under Brigadier-General Wilby, are at Gahoo, one march in rear of the head quarters of the army and the 1st Brigade.

Troops.

Head Quarters and four troops, 3d Bombay Light Cavalry	-	-	-	-	-	171
G. Battery, 14th Brigade, Royal Artillery, four 12-pounder Armstrong guns	-	-	-	-	-	92
Detachment 5th Battery, 25th Brigade, Royal Artillery, with two 8-inch mortars	-	-	-	-	-	35
B. Battery, 25th Brigade, Royal Artillery, steel 7-pounder guns	-	-	-	-	-	109
Head Quarters and K Company, Madras Sappers and Miners	-	-	-	-	-	131
Head Quarters and 2d, 3d, and 4th Companies, Bombay Sappers and Miners	-	-	-	-	-	294
33d Regiment	-	-	-	-	-	700
Head Quarters Wing, 10th Regiment, Native Infantry	-	-	-	-	-	217
						1,749

The following troops are *en route* to join the 1st and 2d Brigades, 1st Division, and are believed to be, on this date, at the stations named below:—

Head Quarters and six Companies, 45th Regiment, at Wandatch, two marches in rear of the 2d Brigade	-	-	-	-	-	385
Head Quarters Wing, 3d Regiment, Native Infantry, at Dildee, one march in rear of the 45th Regiment	-	-	-	-	-	300
One troop, 3d Light Cavalry, ditto, ditto, ditto	-	-	-	-	-	73
Wing, 27th Native Infantry, Belooch Regiment, Marawar, one march in rear of wing 3d Native Infantry	-	-	-	-	-	286
Head Quarters Wing, 3d Dragoon Guards, Mukhan, three marches in rear of wing Belooch Regiment	-	-	-	-	-	220
Head Quarters and squadron, 10th Bengal Cavalry, have received orders to leave Antalo for the front	-	-	-	-	-	140
						1,404

The 1st Division left all their baggage and stores at Lat; this baggage has since been brought on to Dildee, and the stores at that place are left under the charge of a guard of 50 dismounted men of the 3d Regiment, Sind Horse. All troops in advance of Dildee are marching without baggage, and with a limited supply of bell tents sufficient to accommodate 12 Officers or 20 Non-commissioned rank and file in each. Each regiment carries with it 15 days' rations; the loads on the mules have been reduced to 100 lbs. each, to enable the mules to move easily; the troops are carrying their great coats, blankets, and waterproof sheets on their backs, in addition to their arms, accoutrements, and 60 rounds of ammunition. Officers who are not mounted have a great coat, blanket, and waterproof sheet carried for each.

A detachment of 130 men of the 10th Regiment, N.I., are at Attala, escorting stores to the front.

Detachments consisting of 1 Duffadar and 12 men of the 3d and 12th Cavalry are at each postal station from Antalo to Lat, and parties of a Duffadar and 6 men at each station from Lat to the front.

The troops comprising the 2d Division of the force, under the command of Major-General Malcolm, C.B., are stationed at Antalo, Addigerat, and Senafé as follows:—

Antalo.

Brigadier-General Collings commanding.

1 Troop, 3d Bombay Cavalry	-	-	-	-	-	73
1st Bombay Sappers and Miners	-	-	-	-	-	126
Wing, 3d Regiment, N.I.	-	-	-	-	-	375

The following troops have been ordered to Antalo, and are now *en route* to join that station,—

5th Battery, 25th Brigade, R.A., with six 7-pounder brass guns	-	-	-	-	90
4 Companies, 45th Regiment	-	-	-	-	280
3 Companies, 25th Regiment, N.I.	-	-	-	-	190
					1,134

Addigerat.

1 troop, 12th Bengal Cavalry	-	-	-	-	70
G. Battery, 14th Brigade, R.A., two 12-pounder guns (Armstrong)	-	-	-	-	60
Head Quarters and 5 Companies, 25th Regiment, N.I.	-	-	-	-	430
					560

Senafé.

1 troop, 10th Bengal Cavalry	-	-	-	-	73
No. 1 Company, Native Artillery, Mountain Train Battery	-	-	-	-	60
Wing, 10th Regiment, N.I.	-	-	-	-	337
3 Companies, 21st Punjaub N.I.	-	-	-	-	240
1 Company, 21st Bombay, N.I., Marine Battalion	-	-	-	-	87
					797

Detachments of 1 Duffadar and 12 men of the 10th and 12th Bengal Cavalry are located at each postal station between Senafé and Antalo, and 50 men of the 12th Bengal Cavalry are at Agoola half way between Antalo and Addigerat, and small detachments of Cavalry and Native Infantry are at such stations between Senafé and Antalo as considered advisable by the General Officer commanding the Division. The 26th Regiment, Cameronians, embarked at Vingorla for Zoolla on the 17th ultimo, and on arrival will be sent to garrison Senafé and Addigerat.

The Zoolla Brigade is under the command of Major-General Russell, and consists of the following troops stationed at Zoolla, and the different stations in the pass, between Zoolla and Senafé:—

Zoolla.

18th Regiment, Bombay N.I.	-	-	-	-	680
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Koomaylee.

2d Regiment, Bombay N.I.	-	-	-	-	702
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Sooroo.

2 Companies, 21st Punjaub N.I.	-	-	-	-	160
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Undul Wells.

Head Quarters, and 2 Companies, 21st Punjaub N.I.	-	-	-	-	160
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Rayraguddy.

1 Company, 21st Punjab N.I.	-	-	-	-	80
					1,782

The Zoolla command will be strengthened by the 5th and 8th Regiments, Bombay N.I., as soon as they arrive in this country from Bombay.

A distribution map showing the disposition of the several Corps in Abyssinia is attached.

T. J. HOLLAND, Captain,
Assistant Quartermaster-General,
Army Head Quarters.

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THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

SELECTIONS FROM THE DESPATCHES OF SIR ROBERT NAPIER.

No. 1.

SIR R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.

Right Honourable Sir,

Magdalla, April 14th.

I have the honour, in continuation of my Despatch dated the 5th instant, to report, for your information, that it was necessary to halt on Dalanta until the 9th instant, to concentrate the force and gain information regarding the state of affairs to my front, and generally around me. The Chiefs of Dalanta and Daoont both visited me during that time, and, principally through the personal exertions of Captain Speedy amongst the villages of Daoont, and the endeavours of M. Munzinger, considerable quantities of grain were brought into our camp.

On the 7th I received a letter from Emam Ahmad, son of Masteeat, one of the rival Queens of the Wollo Gallas. The influence of the Emam extends over thousands of predatory Muhammadan Horse, whose country lies around Magdalla. He is the virtual Chief of the subjects of Masteeat, though the latter's own authority is also great. Masteeat is the rival of Werkait, another Queen of the Gallas, whose nominal ascendancy is at present established, through the assistance of Manilek, King of Shoa, though the majority of the Galla people support Masteeat. Information had reached me that Masteeat had very recently made friendly advances to Theodore, thinking this, no doubt, a good opportunity of enlisting his influence on her side against Werkait. Theodore is said to have accepted the presents she had sent him. Notwithstanding this alleged intrigue, the letter addressed to me by the Emam, her son, gave expression to feelings of utmost detestation on the part of his family towards King Theodore. As it was very possible that Theodore might flee from Magdalla, it seemed to me of importance to secure the co-operation of a tribe possessed of so much power as the Gallas, in preventing his escape. It was chiefly with this object that I had procured the appointment to the expedition of Meer Akbar Alee, of Hyderabad, in the Dekkan, whose services have been already referred to, and who, as a Saiad who has visited Mecca, was well adapted to attach the followers of Masteeat to our cause. He was despatched accordingly to Emam Ahmad, bearing a reply to the Emam's letter, together with a horse and other gifts. Copy of the translation of the letter is appended (Appendix A.). News of his interview with Emam Ahmad and Masteeat has not yet been received, but the impression produced upon the Gallas, by his arrival amongst them, has apparently been all that could be wished. There seems every reason to believe that Theodore's return to Magdalla, after his attempted flight, under circumstances which will be detailed further on, was owing to the way in which the hills around the fortress were occupied by the Gallas.

On the 9th I advanced towards the banks of the Bashilo, and encamped near the edge of the Dalanta plateau, from which could be seen, in the midst of a vast panorama of mountains and valleys, two of the spurs, namely, Selassie and Falla, of the mountain, of which Magdalla forms the third spur. Magdalla itself was, from this position, concealed by Falla and Selassie, and was distant about 12 miles from where we were. Heavy rain fell during the afternoon, and the night was very cold.

On the following morning, the 1st and 2d Brigades proceeded to cross the Bashilo. The river lies at the bottom of a deep valley, among the mountains. The descent is in some places very steep, and represents a fall of about 3,900 feet, very irregularly distributed in $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The bed of the river itself is broad and rocky, and a considerable

and now muddy stream flows in it at present, reaching nearly to our horses' girths. The ascent on the opposite side was very difficult. Theodore had lately conveyed his guns across the valley, and had constructed a road, which facilitated our passage. But the ascent was so severe, that perhaps this day's march was even more trying than any of the former ones to our troops.

No reply had been received from the King to my letter of the 3d, copy of which accompanied my last Despatch. Neither had we any means of conjecturing how he meant to receive us. Several copies of my letter had been sent to him, but we had not learned if he had received any of them, though it has since been ascertained that a copy was placed in his hands on the day we were crossing the Bashilo, and had caused an outburst of anger at a servant of Queen Victoria having presumed to address him.

Before crossing the Bashilo, I had caused to be prepared a second letter, of which a copy is attached (Appendix B.), intending that it should be forwarded, if occasion offered. As it proved, however, no opportunity of sending it occurred.

At four o'clock on the 10th instant, the head of the column, after traversing upwards of 10 miles of mountain and valley, had reached the plateau of Affajo. This plateau looks down upon the Arogeh plain, on the other side of which rises the mountain height of Falla. This mountain has an elevation of about 1,000 feet above the spot which we had reached, and on its ridge the King had placed seven guns. It was not until shortly before these opened fire upon us that we were aware of their being in position there. Owing to the very great height from which the guns were fired, the first round shot fell near where the column had halted, and our position, though distant over 3,000 yards, was within the extreme range of all the heavier guns. Shortly after the King's artillery had commenced to play upon us, large bodies of Abyssinians were seen descending the steep face of the mountain to attack us. The details of the engagement which ensued will appear from the official report, forwarded in a separate form. Our assailants showed so much bravery, that it was believed at the time that Theodore was leading them in person. But this was not the case. The King himself remained on the height, directing the fire of his troops. Our shells, and rockets, and Snider rifles taught the enemy a lesson which will long be remembered in this country. Their loss is computed at 700 killed (and 1,200 wounded), including many Chiefs of note.

It was nearly dark before the assailants were completely driven off, and the fire of their artillery silenced. A suitable position having been taken in the immediate vicinity, the 1st Brigade bivouacked for the night on the ground, and the wounded were attended to. Our own loss amounted to only twenty wounded. The night passed without any alarm, the enemy, as afterwards appeared, having become paralysed by the blow which had been inflicted on them.

The next morning, Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad appeared in my camp, on the part of King Theodore, from whom they delivered verbally the message, that, till yesterday, he had thought himself the greatest man in the world, but had now found out that there were others stronger than he, and that he desired to be reconciled to our Government.

In conversation with Mr. Flad several facts regarding current events were noted. The numbers of the enemy in the engagement of the day previous was estimated at between 6,000 and 7,000. About 3,000 of these were musketeers, armed chiefly with matchlocks, and there were upwards of 1,000 soldiers in addition who carried percussion muskets. There was no regular Cavalry, but the Chiefs of the army were all mounted on horses or mules. The Europeans assert that the guns were not served by them, but by Abyssinians. Theodore's favourite cannon, which he had named after himself, burst on the first discharge. The fire of the rocket battery had produced a powerful effect on the King's mind, and his impatience, after the battle was over, to avert the danger of a second attack by effecting a reconciliation with us was great. He had displayed to the last the characteristic cruelty which prevents us from in any way regretting his fate. There is no room for doubt that about 200 Abyssinian prisoners in confinement for very trivial offences were put to cruel deaths by his order the day before the battle. He had commenced the massacre with his own hands. The remains of the victims are still to be seen at the foot of the rock from which they were hurled.

Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad, in conveying to me the King's message, came accompanied by the Dajaz Alamee, son-in-law of Theodore. I avoided entering

into unnecessary conversation with his messengers, and sent my answer in writing, as shown in copy of my letter which is appended, marked C.

In the course of the same day Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad returned to my camp, with an unfavourable report of the way in which my reply had been received by the King, who, on understanding its purport, had become enraged, and ordered his former messengers to carry back to me a document which he caused hastily to be written by his scribe, and which, on opening, I found to contain, enclosed with it in the same cover, my own letter of that morning, which the King had thus returned to me, he having conceived himself insulted, I am told, by my having presumed to address him at all. The Dajaz Alamee did not on this occasion accompany Lieutenant Prideaux. Translation of the paper sent me by the King will be forwarded hereafter. It was not in the form of a letter, because he believed it beneath his dignity to hold such correspondence with me. Neither was it sealed.

It was very trying, in the aspect presented at this particular juncture by our relation with the King, to persevere in the course which I had adopted as the right one, since the lives of so many of our countrymen seemed to be endangered by that course. Nevertheless, I felt that I had no alternative, and therefore requested Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad to return to the King, and say to him that I could receive no further communications from him until my demand of that morning had been complied with.

But happily the King's own mind had undergone a kind of reaction almost as soon as he had despatched Lieutenant Prideaux with the paper referred to. He had recoiled from the possible consequences of his act, and after an attempt to commit suicide with a pistol, which was prevented by his attendants, had sent off Mr. Mayer, one of the European prisoners, to announce to me that all the captives whom we sought were on their way to my camp. Lieutenant Prideaux, while returning to the King, met Mr. Mayer coming down the mountain with this most unexpected intelligence, and he and Mr. Flad, turning back with Mr. Mayer, again appeared at my tent, bearing the joyful news, but not charged with any message from the King touching his own submission to Her Majesty. Soon after dark, Mr. Rassam himself arrived in camp, a free man; and with him came Consul Cameron, Doctor Blanc, Rev. Mr. Stern, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal, Mr. Kerans, and Pietro. These had all been liberated. They were escorted on the part of the King by Mr. Mayer, Mr. Waldemaier, Mr. Saalmuller, and Mr. Moritz, artisans, and by the Dajaz Alamee and Aito Samuel. It was not understood whether the German artisans above named were expected by the King to return to him or had been liberated also; but I judged it better that they should return to Magdalla the next morning, until regularly discharged by Theodore.

Although matters had thus assumed a most hopeful aspect, yet there remained ground for anxiety. Mrs. Flad, whose Christian fortitude during all her trials had gained for her universal esteem, was still in the King's hands, and so were many other Europeans for whom we were bound to take thought. It was believed that they too had been liberated, and had been prevented only by illness or other causes, not resting with the King, from proceeding to our camp. Still the uncertain and dangerous temper of Theodore was too well known to permit of our thinking the life of any one safe while within his reach.

Early next morning I received, by the hands of the King's scribe and Mr. Bender, one of his German servants, an Amharic letter, which, on being translated to me verbally by Mr. Rassam and Aito Samuel (the latter rendering it from the original into Arabic, and the former, interpreting the Arabic again into English) was found to be an apology for the rude missive of the previous day. The King endeavoured to explain away the tone he had adopted in the latter, by informing me that that had been written after he had made up his mind to take away his life. He related how his attempt to carry out his design had failed, and that now he desired friendship, and was prepared to send down to us, at once, every European, along with an offering of a few cows, as it was the Easter feast. My reply was conveyed verbally because of my wish to avoid further correspondence with the King, whom I once more referred to my written communication of the day before. Mr. Rassam and others, however, acquired the impression that the cattle mentioned in the letter, had been accepted by me, as they certainly would have been, had the offering accompanied or signified His Majesty's acquiescence in my proposal of the previous day.

The Dajaz Alamee, who had spent the night in my camp, carried back to Theodorus my verbal answer to his second letter, and with the Dajaz went Aito Samuel,

Mr. Flad, and the four Germans who had escorted down Mr. Rassam's party the evening before. I did not think it necessary that Lieutenant Prideaux should return to Magdalla on this occasion, because he was a member of Mr. Rassam's party, and therefore had been duly dismissed by the King.

Mr. Flad has reported as follows what took place when he and his companions reached the King's presence with my message, on the morning alluded to. The Dajaz Alamee delivered my compliments to the King, my acknowledgment of the arrival in my camp of Mr. Rassam's party, and my reiterated demand that the remainder of the Europeans should be sent to me. Theodore at once replied, "Well, I give every one of them permission to leave Magdalla."

The King then asked whether, at the time when Mr. Flad and his companions had left my camp, his scribe and Mr. Bender had arrived there with his letter. Aito Samuel replied, "Yes; your letter was presented to the Commander-in-Chief, and translated." The King inquired what answer had been given about the offered cattle. Samuel replied that I had signified my willingness to accept them. His Majesty then ordered 1,000 oxen and 500 sheep to be taken to my camp. When it was reported to me that the animals had arrived at one of the outlying picquets, I gave orders that they should not be admitted within my picquets until His Majesty's full acceptance of my conditions of the previous day should enable me to receive them, or assume towards him any friendly bearing whatever.

In the course of that day (the day before yesterday) every European in the King's hands arrived safely in my camp, with the exception of M. Bardel, who, though liberated by the King, had been prevented, I believe, by severe illness, from leaving Magdalla, and who had not even sent me a message to explain his delay.

But no sign was made by the King of acceding to the still more important demand that had been made of him, and submitting himself to Her Majesty the Queen. The considerations which, with the lives of so many of our countrymen in his hands, had impelled me to impose this condition upon him, had lost none of their force now. It was essential for the vindication of our national honour, which he has so grossly insulted, that he should be removed for ever from his place. Moreover, we could not have reached Magdalla in this season unless we had been aided by the country. Kassa's supplies of flour had rendered us for the time independent of the failure of Zoulla to supply us. The grain of Enderta and Agame had enabled our transport animals to live and advance, but this aid was given in the full belief that we would rid the people of Theodore; and had we failed to do so, we should probably have had to fight our way out of the country. No doubt can from the first have existed in Theodore's mind as to the purport of my demand, because the letter conveying it was translated to him by his own servants, and his remarks at the time showed that he understood every word of it. His failure to submit himself, therefore, left no other course open to us than to proceed towards him as an enemy.

Early yesterday morning intelligence, which seemed reliable, was brought to me that His Majesty, with about fifty followers, had fled from Magdalla during the night. This was confirmed by the appearance of several Chiefs, with an offer to surrender into our hands the two strong outposts of Falla and Selassie.

I at once sent word to the Gallas, offering a reward of fifty thousand dollars for Theodore's capture, should he really have escaped; and as soon as measures had been taken for the protection of the Chiefs and people among the King's adherents who might choose to surrender, I proceeded to occupy Falla and Selassie, with the same force and in the same order that I had designed for the assault.

While the column was ascending the mountain, contradictory statements regarding Theodore were brought to me. Hardly had one messenger confirmed the report of his flight, than another would come with the information that he had returned to Magdalla, and was busily engaged in massacring the Abyssinian prisoners confined there, to be followed by a third, stating that he had committed suicide. Falla and Selassie were occupied by our troops, without any resistance being offered. The people everywhere laid down their arms and approached us with all confidence. It is impossible to form a correct estimate of numbers; they covered the whole face of the hill, and the paths leading from it were thronged for many hours during their migration. It is believed that the numbers could not have been less than from 25,000 to 30,000, of whom about a third were armed men.

The two hills formed a very strong position, and, if they had been defended with ordinary determination, would have caused very serious loss of life in their capture.

Both of them communicated with Magdalla itself; but what was the state of matters in that stronghold remained as much a problem as ever.

A desultory fire from small guns had been maintained from the walls for some time after Theodore's followers had retired within the fortress. It was said that Theodorus himself, with a few of his soldiers, had galloped out of the gate on the first approach of our troops, and challenged a party of Cavalry to combat; but it was not possible to say certainly if it was he, though it now seems probable it was. He did not, however, approach near enough to give an opportunity of intercepting his retreat to the fortress. With the help of our telescopes, a good view of the interior of Magdalla was obtained. Whatever number of defenders the fort contained were studiously concealed. It was plain, however, that the place was not abandoned, as the gate which had been open on our first approach was perceived to be closed. A few figures were seen in different parts of the fort, and one Officer thought he recognized Theodorus himself.

About noon, I directed a sharp cannonade to be opened upon the gates of the fortress, without, however, calling forth any demonstration in reply. In the absence of such, and in consideration of the numbers of women and children in Magdalla, it was not thought necessary to advance our guns near enough to produce anything like a general destructive effect upon the place.

About 4 p.m., the 33d Foot was ordered to advance to storm the fortress. Led by Major Cooper, and keeping up a continuous fire upon the defences, this fine regiment soon surmounted the steep precipitous cliff which lay between them and the outer gate, notwithstanding the heavy fire of the garrison from behind their defences. Here their progress was arrested, as it was found the gate had been blocked up from within, by means of large rocks piled in the gateway. A company of Royal Engineers, under the command of Major Pritchard, had accompanied the advance party. But it was easier to enter the citadel by clambering, with the help of scaling ladders, over the fortifications on either side, which consisted of a masonry wall and very formidable thorn defence surmounting a scarped rock, than it would have been to blow open the gate. When the place had been entered, another gate at the end of a long tortuous passage between two lines of rock had to be carried. Altogether this fortress is one of the strongest, even when its own proper defences had been reached, that I have ever seen. Its position, with reference to its outworks of Falla and Selassie, adds so much to its strength, that it might be made quite impregnable. If Theodore had been properly supported by his soldiers, we could not have escaped very severe loss in entering it. As it was, however, his army had been so completely demoralized by the severity of the loss inflicted on them two days before that the troops remaining faithful to Theodore were very few, and when they found that their unscientific defences gave them no opportunity to inflict loss on the assailants without exposing themselves, which our rapid fire rendered fatal to them, on the death of the King all the survivors abandoned resistance, and made their escape by the Kaffirbir Gate. The kind treatment bestowed upon their wounded had also produced a strong impression on their minds. It has since been ascertained that Theodore left Magdalla that morning, intending to seek safety in some distant province. But only a few Chiefs followed him out of the gate, and, with the fear of his mortal enemies the Gallas before his eyes, he could not venture to leave Magdalla with so small an escort. He therefore returned to his stronghold, determined to die there rather than perish among the Gallas.

Every armed man who met our column after the fortress had been entered fell under the fire of the Sniders; and the bodies of several Chiefs of distinction, who had remained faithful to their master to the last, lay close behind the outer and inner gates. Theodore himself was found lying dead some way up the narrow path which leads from the gate to the palace. A bullet had passed through his head. The medical report, of which a copy is herewith submitted (Appendix D.), will show that he is believed to have died at the last moment by his own hand.

Copy is submitted (Appendix E.) of a letter addressed to the widow of the Emperor. At her request, the remains of her husband have been interred under the orders of the Officer commanding in Magdalla. No definite arrangements have yet been made for the disposal of her son, who is a boy of about eight years of age. Copy of translation of a letter which I have written to Dejaz Gwangoo, brother-in-law of Theodore, is also forwarded (Appendix F.). Replies have not yet been received to those two letters.

The property of the late King is being collected in the regular manner. His crown and royal seal have been taken possession of in Her Majesty's name, and will be forwarded to England by a suitable opportunity. Measures are being taken for the protection of the inhabitants of Magdalla. Theodore's guns have been destroyed by blasting, and the fortress itself will be dismantled.

The liberated prisoners, of whom a list is attached (marked G.), leave for the coast immediately; and I hope to commence my return march towards Zoulla on the 18th instant.

Every endeavour will now be used to convey the expeditionary army with the least possible delay out of this country.

APPENDIX A.

*Copy of translation of a Letter from Sir R. Napier to Emam Ahmad, Chief of the Wollo Gallas (original in Arabic).—*We salute you. We have received your two letters, and accept your friendly expressions with much pleasure. We have come thus far with the army, by command of Her Majesty the Queen of England, to punish Theodorus for his ill-treatment of British and other European subjects. We are close to Magdalla, and will shortly attack that place. It is necessary that no means of escape should be left to Theodorus. We therefore write to ask you to collect your people, and close every place in your direction by which he might otherwise try to get away from the Amba. Should he try to fly through your country, we will most handsomely reward any one who will bring him to us. But if you close the passes on your side, he cannot fly.

To ensure successful co-operation, and to improve friendly communication, we would wish that some influential person, having your confidence, should be with us in our camp, to remain with us, and we would ask you to send such a person quickly.

We, on our part, have sent to you a Mussulman friend, who has travelled in holy places, and is a person of estimation both among ourselves and among his own people. He will communicate to you our wishes on all points, and we hope he will be received well and honourably.

APPENDIX B.

*Copy of Letter from Sir R. Napier to King Theodore, dated 10th April 1868 (written before going down into Bashilo valley but not sent).—*In order to avert unnecessary bloodshed, we recommend your Majesty to send into our camp forthwith an Abyssinian in your confidence, to whom we may communicate the views of Her Majesty the Queen of England.

APPENDIX C.

*Copy of Letter from Sir R. Napier to Theodore, dated British Camp, Affajo, 11th April 1868, sent in reply to the verbal message brought by Lieutenant Pridcaux, Mr. Flad, and the Dajazmaj Alamee, the son-in-law of the King.—*Your Majesty has fought like a brave man, and has been overcome by the superior power of the British Army.

It is my desire that no more blood may be shed. If, therefore, your Majesty will submit to the Queen of England, and bring all the Europeans now in your Majesty's hands, and deliver them safely this day in the British camp, I guarantee honourable treatment for yourself and all the members of your Majesty's family.

APPENDIX D.

*Surgeon Lumsdaine to Captain Tweedie, April 15th.—*I have the honour to inform you that, by desire of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, I went yesterday to Magdalla, to examine the body of the late Emperor Theodore.

The examination was conducted in presence of two priests, who were watchers, of Samuel the Agent, and of Dr. Blanc, and was identified by all.

There was a gun-shot wound at the back of the head; the inside of the mouth was blackened and scorched; the palate blown away, and a probe, passed in at the mouth, came out at the wound on the back of the head.

From examination of these two wounds, the internal and external, I am of opinion that death was self-inflicted.

APPENDIX E.

Copy of translation of Letter from Sir R. Napier to Ythege Tooroo Wark, 14th April 1868.—His Majesty the late Theodorus, King of Abyssinia, having fallen in arms against the British Government, it remains for us only to request that you will inform us of your wishes regarding the disposal of his body, whether you would like it to be buried by us with all due honour, or made over to you for interment as you may direct.

We would like to know your wishes also regarding the son of his late Majesty. It is to be feared that, in the present state of Abyssinia, the youth's life will be in danger at the hands of many persons who will aspire to the empire of Abyssinia. We are willing to take the child under our protection, and send him to England or Bombay to be educated, and we would suggest this arrangement to you as the best that could be made. Your own wishes regarding his disposal shall, however, be followed by us.

APPENDIX F.

Copy of translation of Letter from Sir R. Napier to Dejaz Gwangoo, brother-in-law of Theodore, 14th April 1868.—His Majesty the late Theodorus, King of Abyssinia, having fallen in arms against the British Government, we ask you to inform us of your views regarding the disposal of all the members of his late Majesty's family, in order that your wishes may receive our consideration.

APPENDIX G.

LIST OF THE CAPTIVES.

Mr. Rassam.
 Consul Cameron.
 Mr. Flad, Mrs. Flad, and three children.
 Lieutenant Prideaux, Bombay Army.
 Dr. Blanc.
 Rev. Mr. Stern.
 Mr. Rosenthal, Mrs. Rosenthal, and one child.
 Mr. Kerans.
 Pietro, servant of Consul Cameron (Italian).
 Mr. Staiger, German missionary, sent by a Scotch Society.
 Mr. Brandies, as above.
 Mr. Essler, German and naturalist.
 Mr. Schiller " "
 M. Makerer, Frenchman, a servant, originally of Cameron, latterly of Theodore.
 Mr. Zander (German), King's artisan, Native wife and four children.
 Mr. Waldemaier (Swiss), as above, an Abyssinian wife (who is the late Mr. Bell's daughter) and one child.
 Mr. Saalmuller (German), as above, wife (viz., daughter of Bell) and one child.
 Aleegas (son of late Mr. Bell), an artisan.
 Mr. Bender (German), wife and three children.
 Mrs. Kenzlen, widow of a German artisan, one child.
 Mr. Moritz, wife and child.
 Mr. Mayer (German), artisan, wife and three children.
 M. Bourgaud (French), artisan, French wife and five children.
 Mr. Schimper (German), Geographer, &c.
 Mr. Schimper, jun., an artisan.
 Mr. M'Kelvie (Irishman), servant of Cameron.
 Mr. John Parkins, artisan.
 M. Bardel (Frenchman).

No. 2.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India (received 19th June 1868).

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
Camp, Dildee, 30th April 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to report for your information, in continuation of my Despatch, dated the 14th instant, that the head quarters and rear guard of the expeditionary force recrossed the Bashilo en route towards the coast on the 18th instant.

2. A short halt was necessary on the Dalanta Plain, in order to make arrangements for the march of the whole force in suitable divisions to Zoulla.

3. On the 24th instant the rear of the army crossed the valley of the Jeddah; the River Tecazeh has since been passed, and we are halting to-day to rest, after a very toilsome march yesterday.

4. I will now revert to the events which took place at Magdalla and in its neighbourhood subsequent to the date of my last Despatch. Anxious as I felt to abstain from further interference in Abyssinian affairs after the object of the expedition had been attained, yet it was necessary for the sake of our national credit that due consideration should be shown for the large numbers whose interests and safety had centered in Theodore's existence, and who remained disarmed and unprotected, and exposed to merciless plunder and slaughter at the hands of the wild tribes which circumstances had, for the moment, converted into our allies.

5. The disposal of the Fortress of Magdalla first demanded attention. This strong position is situated geographically in the country of the Wollo Gallas, from whom it was finally wrested by Theodorus about ten years ago. In his hands it has imposed an effectual check upon the encroachments of the Gallas on Christian Abyssinia. I desired, in the interests of Christianity, to place the stronghold in the possession of Wagshoom Gobazeh, the de facto ruler and principal chief of this portion of Abyssinia. But when I had sent for his lieutenant, the Dajaz Mashashah, the latter excused himself, in his master's name, from accepting the charge, alleging as his reason that it would require so large a garrison to hold it that it would be a source of weakness rather than of strength.

6. Wagshoom Gobazeh himself, notwithstanding his repeated invitations to us, through Brigadier General Merewether, C.B., to come quickly to his aid, had removed himself and his army to a distant quarter before our arrival in pursuit of objects of his own, and it was impossible for me to await a reply to the letter which I addressed to him on the subject of Magdalla.

7. I therefore destroyed the gates of the fort, burned everything on the mountain that was combustible, and abandoned it.

8. Several claimants for its possession had, in the meantime, addressed me regarding it. One of these was the Chief of Daoont, a small territory lying adjacent to Magdalla. Werkait, one of the two rival queens of the Gallas, had also put forward her claims, as likewise had Masteeat the other and more powerful of the Galla Queens.

9. At the time when the disposal of Magdalla was thus exciting so many hopes and desires the widowed Queen of Theodore and her son were brought down in safety from the mountain, and placed within the protection of my camp; the removal of the disarmed garrison and released native prisoners was at the same time in progress.

10. Shortly after the arrival of Werkait's letter soliciting that the fortress might be delivered to her the lady presented herself at my picquets. Although it was evening, she was immediately admitted to an interview, and allowed to represent her claims. She was greatly affected in revisiting a locality which had been associated with so many misfortunes to her family and people. She remarked to me "We fought with Theodore as long as we could, and when his power was too strong for us to resist any longer, my son submitted to him, on receiving a promise of good treatment, notwithstanding which he was inhumanly cut to pieces, and thrown over the precipice of Magdalla; and now I have come to see the grave of my enemy Theodore, and the place where my son fell."

11. At this time, the offer of the fortress had been made to Gobazeh's lieutenant, and his answer had not yet been received. Magdalla was still the scene of military operations while our troops were engaged in destroying Theodore's cannon, and the exodus of its former inhabitants continued in full progress. Therefore it was not thought expedient that Werkait's wish to ascend the mountain should be indulged at such a time. Almost before her story was concluded, intimation was received that her rival Masteeat was

also in the neighbourhood, and on her way to offer her congratulations and submit her claim.

12. At first I hoped to be able to make peace between these two rival queens; but when this was hinted at to Werkait, she said "When two persons are striving for a crown how can peace be made between them? if Masteeat were to make peace with me to-day, before you, she would betray me to-morrow."

13. The news of Masteeat's approach caused great uneasiness amongst Werkait's escort and adherents; and after a second interview with me, during which she exhibited symptoms of much distress, she took a hasty departure, apprehensive lest she should be intercepted by her more powerful and more fortunate rival; more fortunate because her son is alive, and the centre of the hopes of a large body of the people, while to poor Werkait there remains only the memory of her son, so treacherously slain by Theodore. Suitable presents were made to her, as she took her leave; and, shortly after her departure, Masteeat arrived with her son Emam Ahmad, and expressed no small gratitude and rejoicing at Theodore's fall. She had responded very effectually to our request to close all avenues by which the late king could have escaped, and thus she came to us in the character of an established ally. To her request for the possession of Magdalla I was able to answer that, Gobazeh's lieutenant having declined to receive it, I would abandon the place, after dismantling it and burning all of it that could be so destroyed, as a mark of the anger of the British at the ill-treatment of our countrymen as well as of our abhorrence of the cruelties which Theodore had committed there. To this the queen replied that indeed nothing but fire could purify it. On my asking her if she could make peace with Werkait, she answered that she would gladly do so, but that it was impossible; because, if Werkait were to swear friendship on the Koran itself to-day, she would violate her oath to-morrow.

14. Next to the question regarding the disposal of Magdalla arose the necessity of sending away the vast number of Abyssinians who had laid down their arms, together with the other inhabitants of Magdalla and Salamee, including very many women. Many of these appeared to possess mules and property of their own. They were escorted through the Arogee pass, across the Bashilo and the Jeddah, and as far as Bait-Hor, by patrols of our troops. From Bait-Hor they began to diverge to their own several districts, and by the time our column had crossed the Tecageh they had all disappeared.

15. Certain others of the inhabitants of Magdalla remained longer under British protection. Such were the family of Theodore, the political prisoners whom we had released, and a few chiefs and employées who were more especially connected with Mr. Rassam and his party.

16. Advantage was taken of our friendly relations with Masteeat to obtain from her safe conducts and the promise of protection for as many of the people of Magdalla as had occasion to pass through Galla territory on their journey home. A son of Saheela Selassie, named Dargeeh, who had long been confined in Magdalla, was made over to her care, along with a few other natives of Shoa similarly circumstanced, in order to be escorted to Manilek's capital. Masteeat had also undertaken, at my request, to receive charge of certain Abyssinians who had been wounded in the engagement of Arogee, and who were still undergoing treatment in our field hospital. But when Major-General Sir C. Staveley and myself proceeded, on the morning of the 18th, to superintend the march of the last remaining brigade from the neighbourhood of Magdalla, it appeared that no arrangements had been made for the transport of these men. Masteeat herself had accompanied us a short distance on our way. When our wounded enemies were seen being transported by our own people, her followers were shamed into exerting themselves to provide attendants for them, and finding that five of their number were more or less connected with themselves, they took charge of these and removed them to their camp. The remainder were carried along with our column by spare muleteers from the transport train, as our regular hospital establishment had not the means of conveying them. We then took leave of Masteeat, who proceeded without delay to establish herself and her followers in the dismantled fortress of Magdalla.

17. A list of the principal political prisoners liberated by us on our occupation of Magdalla is appended, marked A. An opportunity was taken of receiving all of them who desired an interview with me, and advice suitable to their several circumstances was then tendered to them. Booroo Gooshoo the Prince of Godjam was the first who was introduced. He bore in his enfeebled frame the marks of fourteen years spent in captivity. It is probable that Godjam, which has generally formed a separate principality, will now become subject to this chief. The Prince of Enderta, who is the maternal uncle of the present ruler of Tigreh, was next presented to me. He left the

following day for the court of his relative Dajasmaj Kassa. Wagshoom Tiferri, who is said by some to be in reality the hereditary Prince of Wag, was then introduced, and afterwards other chiefs of lesser note.

18. The widow of Theodore and her numerous attendants still remain, as it were, the guests of our camp, and will probably travel with us as far as the nearest point in our route to the lady's native district of Semien. Her severe illness during the past ten days has prevented my seeing her; but I trust she is now recovering under the care of the medical officer attached to my staff, who has been detailed by me to provide for her comfort.

19. Translation is appended (marked B.) of a proclamation which I have thought it right to issue to the chiefs and people of this portion of Abyssinia at the present time.

20. Translation is appended also of a letter received a few days ago from Manilek King of Shoa, and of my reply (Appendix C.); together with translations of my letters to Dejasmaj Wagshoom Gobazeh, and Dejasmaj Kassa respectively, announcing recent events (Appendices D. and E.)

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

A.

LIST showing the Principal Chiefs found confined in Magdalla, and released on the 13th April 1868.

Faris Ali	-	-	-	Chief of Yejoo.
Wagshum Taferri	-	-	-	Do. Waag, cousin of Wagshum Gobazyé.
Dejaj Sahela	-	-	-	Do. Haramat.
Ajaj Vegussy	-	-	-	Do. " (his son).
Balgeda Maro	-	-	-	Do. Enderta.
Shum Agame Aragawi	-	-	-	Do. Agame.
Lij Tuhuya	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Shum Salowa Ezekias	-	-	-	Do. Salowa.
Dejaj Inman	-	-	-	Do. Brother of Rasotly.
Burru Joshn and two Brothers	-	-	-	Do. Godjam.
Cassa, son of Doby	-	-	-	Do. Gemien.
Gwangul "	-	-	-	Do. Ibid. } Brothers of the
Hayla Dereso	-	-	-	Do. Tilemt. } Empress.
Goshn Wondia	-	-	-	Do. Belessa.
Ras Walda Muriam	-	-	-	Do. Begemedér,
Ras Gebrie	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Ras Waheda Tadla	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Bitwaded Tadla and two Brothers	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Engeda	-	-	-	Do. Dembea.
Maumieé	-	-	-	Do. Shoa.
Ubié	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Aregié, Son of Savala Selassi	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Ajaj Wondie	-	-	-	Do. Begemedr.
" Geret	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
" Gebra Selassi	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Belata Gobazé	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Seregie Deresso	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Lej Meshasha	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Wossen Hura	-	-	-	Do. Kwara.
Wossen Darija	-	-	-	Do. Ibid.
Pasha Haylee	-	-	-	
Tulif Engeda	-	-	-	Do. Tigré.
Ras Ubié	-	-	-	Do. Meja.
Balgeda Area	-	-	-	Do. Enderta.

Several others of Shoa and Wollo, whose names are unknown.

(True Copy.)

W. TWEEDIE, Lieut.,
Political Secretary.

B.

PROCLAMATION by his Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier, G.C.B., K.C.S.I., to all the Chiefs and People of Abyssinia, dated 27th April 1868.

We proclaim that Dajazmaz Gobazeh is the friend of the British. He appointed Dajaz Mashasha his representative here. Those who would be treated as friends by the British Commander should

obey Dajazmaj Gobazeh, the officers appointed by him, and no other. We desire there should be peace in the country.

(True copy.)

W. TWEEDIE, Lieut.,
Principal Secretary.

C.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Negoos Manilek of Shoa to General Napier, Chief of all the invading English Armies.

Having heard that you have come to Abyssinia, I was first willing to send to you in a suitable manner, but my enemies who are between us are stopping the road, and divide us, and so it became difficult to send a person of note, together with a man knowing the country.

Now I send you one of my servants with this letter, to make acquaintance with you. Far from being the enemy of the Queen of England I am her friend. Before, I had intended to liberate the captives and come very near Magdalla; but as the business seemed impossible, and my army had no more provisions, I returned to my country. Now I am far off, but I have no hesitation (to help). I like to help you, and want in nowise to trouble you.

As to my friendship with the Queen it is not a matter of to-day. I had sent to London, and have received a friendly answer; perhaps you have heard it.

May God give you full welfare.

(L.S.) No date.

COPY of Translation of Letter from his Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier to Manilek, King of Shoa, dated 28th April 1868.

We have received your letter with much pleasure. We had before heard of the endeavours made by you to effect the release of the European captives detained in Magdalla, and thank you much for them. We also thank you for the offers of help your friendship for our Sovereign the Queen of England prompt you to make. But we have now to convey to you the good tidings that the British army intrusted to our command completely defeated the army of Theodorus at Arogee on the 10th April. The European captives were all then released, and on the 13th, Theodorus having unwisely refused to submit to the mercy of the Queen of England, the amba of Magdalla was stormed and taken, and Theodorus was found dead within. By our order, Magdalla was burned, and left a blackened rock, as a warning to all who injure subjects of Her Majesty the Queen of England. We should have been glad to have met you, but you are far off; and the object of our coming having been by God's blessing completed, we are now marching again to the coast. By Theodorus' death, many chiefs of Abyssinia have also been relieved from long confinement, amongst others, a relation of yours, Doorgeeh, and other natives of Shoa. We invited the good offices of Masteeat, the Queen of the Gallas, to provide him with safe escort to your country. Her promise was given, and we look to hear of his reaching you safely. Your letter to Her Majesty the Queen was sent to London, and a reply forwarded to you by your messenger from Aden. This will have reached. May God have you in his good keeping.

(True translations.)

W. TWEEDIE, Lieut.,
Political Secretary.

D.

COPY of Translation of Letter from his Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier to Dajazmaj Gobazeh, dated 15th April 1868.

How are you? Are you quite well? Thank God I am well. I have to-day received your letter of the 2d April, and congratulate you on your complete success over Tisso Gobazeh.

I have now to inform you that Magdalla is in my possession, and all the Europeans held in captivity by Theodorus are safe in my camp, Theodorus is dead. His army was defeated by my troops at Aroge on the 10th April, and on the 13th, the amba was stormed and captured, Theodorus being found dead within. Being well assured of your friendly feelings, I have sent for your deputy Dajaz Mashasha, and will, in the name of my Sovereign the Queen of England, give possession of Magdalla to him for you, in proof of my conviction of your sincerity, and in the confident expectation that the gift of this strong fortress, requiring so many troops and such great labour to obtain possession of, will lead you to acquiesce in the request I shall make to you when we meet, and in which the good of your country is largely concerned. I regret to have to inform you that my people have been molested, and the instructions for assistance you issued have not been carried out by the chiefs of Attala, Ashangee, Lat, Marwa, and Dildee. In all other places your orders have been well acted up to. I am about to return with my army by Lasta, Womberat, and Wodjerat. I should be glad to see you and would request that a meeting may be arranged somewhere on that road between this and Wodjerat.

(True copy.)

W. TWEEDIE, Lieut.,
Political Secretary.

E.

(COPY of Translation of Letter from his Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier to Dajazmaj Kassa, dated 21st April 1868.

After compliments,

We have now great gratification in informing you, that on the 10th instant our army met, and utterly routed the army of Theodorus in the Aroge plain near Magdalla.

All the Europeans with their families who had been so long unjustifiably detained in captivity by Theodorus were released, and Theodorus persisting in refusing to submit himself to Her Majesty the Queen of England, the amba was stormed and taken on the 13th, Theodorus being found dead inside. Magdalla has since been destroyed and burned by our order, and left a blackened wreck. Many chiefs of Abyssinia were found in chains in the amba. These have been liberated and permitted to return to their homes. Amongst them were some of Tigreh. On their arrival in your country we would commend them to your care and generous consideration. Having accomplished the objects for which we were sent, we are now about to return with our army by the same route that we came.

We purpose on the way to have an interview with Dajazmaj Gobazeh, and will not then forget what passed at the private interview with you at Howgain, and trust our endeavours will produce results beneficial to the peace and welfare of all Abyssinia.

(True copy.)

H. TWEEDIE, Lieut.,
Political Secretary.

No. 3.

From Lieutenant-General Sir ROBERT NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commanding the Expeditionary Force in Abyssinia, to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Head Quarters,

Right Honourable Sir,

Camp Antalo, May 12, 1868.

On the 3d April, when encamped on the Waddela Plateau, I received intimation from the Chiefs of Dalanta that Theodore, having moved from Magdala and encamped on the plain of Aroge, was preparing for an expedition; letters from the captives also warned me to be on my guard.

Between the British force and the plain of Dalanta lay the Jedda Ravine, 3,400 feet deep. As the passage of this formidable obstacle, so easily defensible, could not have been effected in the face of an enemy without serious loss, I made a forced march of 18 miles, crossed the Jedda, and established myself on the plain of Dalanta. The mere distance in miles gives little idea of the labour and fatigue of the march, the excessively steep descent and ascent and the great heat were very distressing for troops heavily weighted.

Theodore, however, did not cross the Bashilo, but plundered and burnt the villages between that river and Magdala, which has always been faithful to and trusted him.

From the edge of the Dalanta plain I obtained a distant but clear view of the position of Magdala and its approaches. I was able with a good telescope to appreciate the formidable character of the whole position, and became aware that I should require all the infantry that I could possibly collect to make the attack effective, and that every cavalry soldier that I could bring forward would be necessary for the investment. Even with all the force that I could hope to gather up I felt I could not complete the investment by sending a column to close the Kaffir Burr or southern gate of Magdala, but I deputed an officer of the Intelligence Department, Meer Akbar Ali, to "Mustiale," the Queen of the Woolla Gallas, to engage her to bring every man she could muster to close all escape on that side. Meer Akbar Ali's report will be forwarded, and will show how effectually he accomplished his mission.

Reluctant as I was to incur any delay so near to Magdala, these considerations and the necessity of having supplies sufficient to carry me through the operations against that fortress obliged me to defer crossing the Bashilo for several days.

I had not overlooked the probability of the unstable Abyssinian people despising the small postal detachments and the pacific demeanour of our troops, but the various difficulties of our transport and scarcity of our supplies kept me without sufficient troops to make the posts of communication as strong as the circumstances required. Each day however was bringing forward some accession of strength, and in the meantime I had endeavoured, by liberality and every means of conciliation, to engage the petty chiefs between Antalo and the Tacassie river to maintain their friendly assistance in forwarding native convoys of supplies; it was the only course that gave chance of success, unfortunately it succeeded but partially.

Relieved from the pressure of our main force the chiefs commenced to interfere with the Abyssinian carriers of our supplies, and to make attacks on our posts and convoys;

the local carriage, which had enabled me to advance from Antalo, was suspended just at the time when its maintenance was most important; thus it happened that on the 4th of April I had only five days supplies to depend upon.

The force had left all its baggage at Lat, 100 miles in rear, taking on merely the clothes in which they marched, and carrying great coats, blankets, and waterproof sheets: they had no other encumbrance than a bell tent for 12 officers or 20 soldiers; the daily storms which we experienced renders this shelter indispensable. The carriage so released was sent back for provisions to the points where native transport was doubtful, and gave me sure hope of ultimate relief from my commissariat difficulties, but the immediate urgency was pressing.

On the 2nd instant I deputed Brigadier-General Merewether to the Tacassie, to arrange with the chiefs there to bring in supplies of flour.

Major Grant was directed to return to Lat, and Captain Moore to Lake Ashangie, to remove obstructions which had arisen at those places. Captain Speedy and Mr. Munzinger proceeded, the former to Daount, the latter to the borders of Dalanta that had been ravaged by Theodore, and through the exertions of these officers I was enabled to feed my cattle, and to obtain flour enough for 11 days supply at 8 oz. for each soldier. The native followers received wheat in the grain instead of flour.

Relying on the admirable spirit of my force I was prepared to commit myself against Magdala with these means.

Besides the view which I had obtained of Magdala and its approaches I received most valuable information from a chief named Beitwuddun Hailo, who had recently deserted from Magdala; having engaged in some intrigues with Menelek, King of Shoa, he knew well that his lot would be instant death on his master's arrival.

It is difficult to give by description alone a sufficient idea of the formidable position which we were about to assail. The fortress of Magdala is about 12 miles from the right bank of the Bashilo, but the great altitude and the purity of the atmosphere exhibited the whole outline distinctly.

The centre of the position is the rock of Selassie, elevated more than 9,000 feet above the sea, and standing on a plateau called Islamgie, which is divided into several extensive terraces, with perpendicular scarps of basalt. A saddle connects these terraces with the hill called Fahla. Fahla is a gigantic natural bastion, level on the top, entirely open, and commanded by Islamgie. It domineers completely at an elevation of 1,200 feet over all approaches to Islamgie; the sides appeared precipitous, and the summit surrounded by a natural scarp of rock, accessible only in a few places, and from 18 to 20 feet in height.

Nearly concealed from view by Selassie and Fahla the top of Magdala was partially visible.

The road to Magdala winds up the steep side of Fahla, subject to its fire, and to the descent of rocks and stones. One part of the road is so steep that few horses, except those bred in the country, could carry their riders up or down it. The whole road is flanked by the end of Selassie and the broad side scarp of Islamgie. Altogether, without taking into account Magdala itself, the formidable character of its outworks exceeded anything which we could possibly have anticipated from the faint description of the position which had reached us.

The refugee chief Beitwuddun Hailo was very anxious that I should try the south side, at the Kaffir Burr (gate), from the opposite range, called "Janta," saying, "If you want to take Selassie go from hence; but if you want Magdala, you must go from 'Janta.'" This, however, would have been impossible; I had not force enough to divide, and I could not place this vast combination of natural fortresses between me and my direct line of communication. I also perceived that the real point to be taken was not Magdala, but Islamgie, where Theodore had taken post with all his guns, and that Fahla was the key to the whole.

On the 7th I descended to the bed of the Bashilo, and reconnoitred the crossing.

The ordinary approach to Magdala is by the Arogie ravine, which commences under Islamgie, and is bounded on its right by a spur which extends from Islamgie, in a serrated ridge, to the Bashilo. A similar spur from Fahla stretches to the water of the Bashilo, and bounds the ravine on its left.

The highest point of this ridge is about 2,000 feet above the bed of the Arogie ravine.

The grand features of the ground rendered it impossible for me with my small force of infantry to hold both sides of the ravine. I considered Fahla the key of the position, and determined to occupy the ridge, bearing in different parts the names of Gimborgi and Affijo, which leads to that imposing outwork. Established on this ridge I could operate on either side of Fahla, as might seem expedient on closer examination.

Between the 4th and 9th instant my force was increased by six companies of the 45th Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Parish, which, though long delayed for want of carriage, had marched from Zoulla in 25 days. A wing of the 3d Bombay Native Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, was detained seven marches in rear, owing to the urgent want of carriage, and I thus lost the services of an able officer and an excellent body of soldiers, on whom I had calculated for the attack.

On the 9th the whole force concentrated on the edge of the plateau overlooking the Bashilo, which flows 3,900 feet below it.

Major Chamberlain with the 23rd Punjaub Pioneers, supported by a wing of the Beloochees, occupied the bed of the Bashilo, and repaired Theodore's road.

The signallers of the 10th Company Royal Engineers maintained communications.

The Royal Engineers and the Madras and Bombay Sappers under Captain Goodfellow made up the necessary provision of sand-bags, scaling-ladders, and bags filled with powder for the demolition of gates, stockades, &c.

As the only supply of water between the Bashilo and Magdala was under the enemy's fire, all the water-carriers of the force were organized under command of Captain Bainbridge, Transport Corps, with two subalterns, Lieutenant Mortimer, Transport Corps, and Lieutenant Ramsbottom, Transport Corps, for the purpose of carrying forward regular supplies of water from the Bashilo.

The bandsmen and a party of Punjaub muleteers were also organized under command of Captain Griffith, aided by Lieutenant Gazelee, Transport Corps, and furnished with stretchers, for the removal of wounded men from the field.

ACTION of the 10th April.

All preparations having been completed, I placed the cavalry* under Colonel Graves to hold the Bashilo, but ready to advance, and moved the remainder of the force across the river under the immediate command of Sir Charles Staveley.

The 2nd Brigade† under Brigadier-General Wilby, to remain in the bed of the Bashilo in support, the 1st Brigade,‡ under Brigadier-General Schneider, to occupy the Gunborji spur and advance to a suitable place for encampment, and also to cover a reconnaissance by the Deputy Quartermaster General of the enemy's position.

The Deputy Quartermaster General reported, that the ascent to Gunborji was extremely steep and difficult, and that the King's Road up the Arogie Ravine was easy and secure for the mountain guns and baggage; they were, therefore, ordered to take that route.

When the leading part of the column had reached Affigo I arrived at the front.

The King's Road emerges from the Arogie pass, at a distance of 1,200 yards from Affigo, and 700 feet below it.

I ordered Major Chamberlain's Punjaub Pioneers§ to be sent immediately to cover the head of the pass, and the remainder of the brigade to be closed up as soon as possible.

The men were greatly distressed by the heat, the severe ascent, and want of water.

Shortly after Major Chamberlain had taken up his position the Naval Rocket Brigade, under Captain Fellowes, appeared, rising from the pass, followed by Lieutenant-Colonel Penn's steel battery, escorted by detachments of infantry.

At this time the enemy opened his guns from Fahla and Islamgie, making good practice at the Punjaubees, and at the position of Affigo.

Notwithstanding the distance, which was more than 3,000 yards, the enemy's shot ranged well into the positions, owing to the great command, and probably to excessive charges of powder; but the fire being a plunging one, no casualties ensued.

Almost simultaneously with the opening of the enemy's artillery, a large force was seen pouring down from Islamgie and the sides of Fahla, descending at speed the steep road and the faces of the mountains, until they filled the whole plain of Arogie.

Many of the enemy were dressed in red, and almost bore the appearance of our own troops in the distance. About 500, principally chiefs, were mounted.

* 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, 183; 3rd Regiment Sind Horse, 181; 12th Bengal Cavalry, 96.

† 2ND BRIGADE.—B Company, 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, Captain Twiss, 103; G Company, 14th Brigade, Royal Artillery, Captain Murray, 94; Detachment 5th Company, 25th Brigade, Royal Artillery, Major Hills, V.C., 27; 33d Regiment, Major Cooper, 694; 6 Companies 45th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Parish, 325; Wing 10th Regiment Native Infantry, Colonel Field, 211.

‡ 1ST BRIGADE.—A Company, 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, 86; Royal Naval Brigade, Captain Fellowes, 80; 10th Company Royal Engineers, Major Pritchard, 20; 1st Battalion 4th King's Own Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron, 446; 23rd Punjaub Pioneers, Major Chamberlain, 575; Wing 27th Beloochees, Major Beville, 259; 1st Company Madras Sappers, Major Prendergast, V.C., Royal Engineers, 70; Bombay Sappers and Miners, Captain Macdonnell, Royal Engineers, 283.

§ 10th Company Royal Engineers; 1st Battalion 4th King's Own Regiment (seven companies); 27th Belooch Regiment (wing); K Company Madras Sappers; 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Companies Bombay Sappers.

The Naval Brigade hastened up the road to Affigo, and as each rocket tube came into position it opened on the advancing masses of the enemy, who were startled, checked, and driven back at some points, but only to press forward at others.

I directed Sir Charles Staveley to bring forward the remaining infantry, which by this time had closed up, to repel the attack.

The 4th K. O. Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron, closely followed by Beville's Beloochees and the Royal Engineers, commanded by Major Pritchard, and the Bombay Sappers under Captain MacDonnell, R.E., descended rapidly the steep path leading down to the Arogie Plain with unrestrained expressions of delight at having at last their enemy before them.

Opening into skirmishing order they ascended a suitable slope which separated them from the Plain of Arogie, and immediately came into contact with the enemy, drove them back, in spite of the efforts of their leaders, in masses, on which the fire of the Snider told with terrible effect.

Several gallant attempts were made by the Abyssinians to rally, but many of their chiefs fell, and they were driven down the slopes of Arogie, towards the ravines on our left front.

A portion of them withdrew up the sides of Fahla, and taking cover in a thicket of cactus trees, opened a teasing fire on Staveley's right, causing some casualties.

Captain Fellowes, having maintained the fire of his rockets until masked by the advance of the infantry, had been sent to support Sir Charles Staveley.

The fire of the rockets together with some volleys from Beville's Beloochees and the Royal Engineers, supported by two of Penn's guns, under Lieutenant Taylor, cleared Staveley's flank from further annoyance.

The rockets were then turned on the summit of Fahla; they were well directed, and, as I subsequently learned, produced a very great effect.

A party of the enemy attempted to pass round the sides of Affigo to turn our right, but were checked by a few rockets, and dispersed by the K Company Madras Sappers, under Major Prendergast, V.C. Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, with a detachment of the 3d Bombay Cavalry, accompanied the infantry in support.

Towards the left, Colonel Milward ascended from the Arogie Pass with Penn's Battery escorted by detachments of the 4th King's Own Regiment under Captain Kittoe, and the 23d Pioneers under Captain Paterson, at the time when the guns opened from Fahla and Islamgie.

On perceiving the troops of Theodore descending from Islamgie, Colonel Milward took up a strong position and opened fire from Penn's Battery. Major Chamberlain, who was holding the pioneers in hand to cover the head of the pass, moved to his left and joined Colonel Milward.

A considerable body of Abyssinians bore down upon Milward's position. Notwithstanding the evident effects of Penn's guns they continued to advance with much determination and order.

Chamberlain with his pioneers met their attack in the most prompt and spirited manner, driving them with great slaughter into the ravines to his left front; not, however, without gallant resistance on the part of the Abyssinians, who closed fearlessly with the Punjaubees; the spear wounds received bore witness to the closeness of the conflict.

On the extreme left the enemy pressed in large numbers towards the head of the Arogie Ravine where the baggage had arrived.

The Baggage Master, Lieutenant Sweeny, King's Own Regiment, with great readiness, massed the baggage in a safe position, and the baggage guard, consisting of two companies of the 4th King's Own Regiment, and one of the 10th Native Infantry, under Captain Roberts of the former corps, until disabled, and subsequently under Lieutenants Abadie (11th Hussars) and Sweeny, were brought forward, and most effectually checked the attempt of the enemy to penetrate into the Arogie Ravine.

Arrested at the head of the ravine and driven back by the baggage guard, closed in upon by Chamberlain's Pioneers and two companies of the 4th King's Own Regiment, whom Sir Charles Staveley had wheeled on to their flank, the enemy suffered most severely; large numbers were seen to fall from the admirably directed fire of the mountain guns.

Theodore's troops had advanced with the full confidence of men accustomed to victory; they had cast themselves off from their vantage ground to which there was no return.

They had been promised by Theodore that they should be enriched by the spoils of the English, and it was not without a stout resistance that they were finally driven off the field.

A heavy rain continued during the greater part of the action. The troops thoroughly wet and tired, but highly elated with their victory, bivouacked for the night, covering the road to Arogie Pass, and before daylight had re-occupied their commanding position on Afigo, from which they had descended to meet the enemy.

The wounded were promptly attended to under the direction of Dr. Currie, C.B., Inspector-General of Hospitals.

Many wounded Abyssinians were also carried off the field by our troops, and were carefully attended to in our hospitals.

The 2d Brigade, which came up in the night, occupied the ground which had been held after the action by the 1st Brigade.

According to the best information, the probable number of the enemy was not less than 5,000, of whom at least 3,000 were the regular musketeers, and the remainder less efficiently armed. Theodore distributed new arms to his troops on the day preceding the battle.

The loss of the enemy cannot be correctly estimated; 349 dead were buried in front of the left of our position alone, and exclusive of those who fell in Staveley's first attack, 30 very badly wounded Abyssinians were carried to our hospital.

Theodore's Lieutenant, Fetararee Gabsie, and many chiefs of note were amongst the slain.

Nearly all night the calls of the Abyssinians to their wounded friends were heard, and the greater number of the latter were carried from the field. We saw a large number of wounded when Theodore's army surrendered.

The British loss was only 20 wounded, two mortally; this disparity of loss resulted from the determined and persistent attack of the Abyssinians against a better disciplined and better armed force, not better armed, however, as regarded the 23d Pioneers, whose smooth bore is hardly equal to the double barrelled percussion gun of the Abyssinians.

There was no hasty flight; the enemy returned again and again to the attack whenever the ground favoured them.

I issued orders to provide against the pursuit being carried too far up the hill, which could only have ended by our retiring and giving renewed confidence to the enemy.

On the morning of the 11th, Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad arrived in my camp, accompanied by Dejach Alema, a son-in-law and confidential chief of Theodore, with a request for peace.

I replied that if Theodore would bring all the European captives to my camp, and submit to the Queen of England, I would promise honourable treatment for himself and his family.

Lieutenant Prideaux returned to Magdala with the letter containing these terms. In the course of the forenoon he returned again to the British camp with Mr. Flad, but without Dejach Alema; he brought a letter without seal or signature from Theodore, refusing my terms. My letter was returned.

I sent back Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad to intimate that no other terms would be granted.

I considered that a fuller atonement than the surrender of the captives, when they could be retained no longer, was absolutely required, and must be exacted; and, painful as was the thought of the possible consequences to the captives if Theodore's rage should become excited, I relied for their safety on the apprehension of a renewal of the conflict which demoralized Theodore's troops, and from which Theodore himself was not free, as was involuntarily betrayed by Dejach Alema. I relied also on my threat, which I impressed on Dejach Alema, of unrelenting pursuit and punishment of all who might in any way be concerned in the ill-treatment of the European captives. I pointed out how the power of Great Britain had already reached Magdala; that no corner of Abyssinia, however remote, could screen anyone whom we wished to punish.

Lieutenant Prideaux was met on his return to Magdala by Mr. Rassam, and the remainder of the British prisoners and several of those of other nations, all of whom arrived in my camp before evening.

My further conditions were not complied with. At the request of Dejach Alema I had promised to abstain from hostilities for 24 hours. After the lapse of 48 hours Theodore had not surrendered himself; reliable information reached me that his army was recovering from their defeat, that many soldiers who had been unable to return to Magdala on the night of the 10th had since rejoined their ranks, that fresh defensive arrangements were being made, and that Theodore and his chiefs even contemplated a night attack on the Second Brigade encamped on the lower ground. I, therefore, prepared to attack the enemy's position.

I had originally intended first to assault Fahla from the side which fronted our camp, and was screened from the fire of Islamgie and Selassie. But under the altered condition of the enemy, Theodore, having by death, wounds, and desertion lost half of his army and his bravest chiefs, I determined to attack Islamgie by the King's Road.

All arrangements for this had been considered, and the positions for the artillery reconnoitred and fixed upon, when information was brought to me that Theodore had left Magdala, and that many of the chiefs with their followers wished to surrender.

I agreed to accept their submission, and ordered Sir Charles Staveley to advance on Islamgie, relaxing no precautions that I had considered necessary for the attack.

The scarcity of water rendered it impossible to retain any considerable body of cavalry before Magdala; my personal escort, under a native officer, only remained, and with a few details of other corps, was sent under command of Lieutenant Scott, A.D.C., to watch the west side of Magdala, where they took up a good position, until the arrival of the cavalry, under Colonel Graves,* who completed the investment up to the Kaffir Burr Gate, which was watched by the Gallas.

The Bashilo was held by the Head Quarter Detachment of the Sind Horse, under Major Briggs, and detachments of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, 3rd and 12th Cavalry, under Major Miller, to secure that point, and provide against the escape of the enemy in that direction by the Minjerra Ravine.

A detachment of the Beloochees, under Lieutenant Beville, ascended by the spurs of Fahla, and occupied that important position, where they were reinforced from the Second Brigade by the Head Quarters Wing of the 10th Native Infantry, under Colonel Field.

The Artillery was placed in position, and the troops advanced, preceded by Captain Speedy, of the Intelligence Department, with a small escort of the 3rd Light Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, to communicate with the chiefs who wished to surrender, and to prevent any misunderstanding.

No resistance was offered.

Sir Charles Staveley effected an entrance to Islamgie and Selassie, through a difficult crevice in the rocky escarps.

It would be impossible to arrive at any correct estimate, either of the numbers of the armed men who laid down their weapons, or of the masses of people, men, women, and children, whom we found on Islamgie.

It was necessary to collect and guard the arms that were surrendered.

It was also necessary to send down all the disarmed soldiers and the miscellaneous multitude that followed them, to the plain below, before I could proceed actively against Magdala.

Theodore, himself, having abandoned his attempt to escape, was making preparations for defence, and offering us defiance in front of Magdala.

By three o'clock the Abyssinians having nearly all cleared away from Islamgie, I ordered the attack of Magdala to be at once carried out.

The entrance of Magdala is 300 feet above the terraplain of Islamgie, and the ascent is by an extremely steep and rugged path.

Viewing the very difficult nature of the approach I made the attack as strong as possible, and massed the whole of my artillery† fire to cover it, in order to overpower the enemy's resistance and prevent the heavy casualties which I should otherwise have incurred.

The assaulting force consisted of the 2nd Brigade, led by the 33rd, Duke of Wellington's, Regiment, accompanied by detachments of the Royal Engineers and Madras and Bombay Sappers and Miners, with means of clearing away obstacles.

The first brigade to be in close support.

I concentrated the fire of the artillery on the gateway and the north end of the fort, which were crowded with the houses of the soldiers, avoiding as much as possible the higher part of the interior, occupied by the Abyssinian prisoners and non-combatants.

The enemy carefully concealed themselves from view, so that the place seemed almost deserted, although, when entered by our troops, it was found to be thronged with soldiers who had thrown away their arms, released prisoners, and the numerous voluntary and involuntary followers of Theodore's fortunes.

The artificial defences consisted of stone walls, loop-holed and surmounted by strong and thick barricades of thorny stakes, with narrow stone gateways. The lower one built

* 3rd Dragoon Guards (173), Lieutenant-Colonel Tower; 3rd Bombay Cavalry (183), Captain Macnaghten; 12th Bengal Cavalry (96), Major Gough, V.C.

† 4 12-pounder Armstrong guns of the G Battery, 14th Brigade, under Captain Murray; 2 8-inch mortars, manned by detachment of 5 Battery, 25th Brigade, under Brevet-Major Hills, V.C.; 12 7-pounder steel mountain guns of the A and B Battery, 21st Brigade, under Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Penn and Captain Twiss; 4 rocket tubes attached to the Steel Battery; 32 rocket tubes, Naval Brigade, under Captain Fellowes.

up in the interior, the higher one being 70 feet above the lower, and approached by a very steep narrow path winding amongst the soldiers huts.

The attack was ably conducted by Sir Charles Staveley, whose report is annexed, and gallantly carried out by the troops. Fortunately the defences were very unscientifically constructed, and though the attack was met by a sharp fire from the enemy, yet they could not direct it on the head of the storming party without exposing themselves to the rapid and fatal fire of the Snider rifle, and our loss was, in consequence, very small.

The Royal Engineers and Sappers, and leading sections of the 33rd Regiment were long before they could force an entrance, and during that time nine officers and men of the Royal Engineers and Sappers received wounds or contusions.

At length an entrance was found by means of the ladders near the gate, and by the leading men of the 33rd, who scaled a rock and turned the defences of the gateway, the enemy was driven to the second barricade, and when that was carried, all resistance ceased.

Amongst the dead near the outer gateway were found several of Theodore's most devoted chiefs; one of them, Dejach Enjeda, had urged Theodore to massacre all the prisoners, a course from which he was dissuaded by others; close to the second gateway lay the body of Theodore.

At the moment when the barricade was forced by the 33rd, Theodore fell, as I have since learned, by his own hand, his troops immediately fled, some by the Kaffir Burr Gate, which was found choked with arms that had been cast away in their flight.

Of these fugitives the greater part fell into the hands of the Gallas, and the remainder, seeing the fate of their comrades, and hearing the taunting invitations of the Gallas, returned to Magdala and surrendered.

The command of Magdala was entrusted to Brigadier-General Wilby, who held it with the 33rd and wing of the 45th Regiments.

So thickly was the fortress inhabited, and so great was the crowd of people, that it was no easy matter to establish order.

Guards were placed at the gates and such places as required protection.

The family of Theodore were committed to the care of Mr. Rassam, who was requested to do all that was in his power for their comfort and protection.

The Abyssinian prisoners were released from their chains, and the very numerous body of Abyssinians whose histories and condition it was impossible at the time to investigate, were collected in an open space in the centre of the fortress, where they could be protected, and where they quickly threw up small huts for themselves, and remained until their final departure.

On the 15th, the 4th King's Own Regiment relieved the 33rd in Magdala, and the 45th were moved to Islamgie to reinforce the detachment of the 10th Native Infantry under Colonel Field, for the protection of the captured arms and ordnance, and to furnish working parties for their destruction.

The inhabitants of Magdala were collected at Arogie, where great vigilance was necessary to protect them from the Gallas, who were lying in wait, both day and night, for opportunities of plundering and destroying them.

Notwithstanding the friendly relations with the Queens of the Gallas, their people were so little under restraint, that it was frequently necessary to fire upon them to drive them from molesting our water-parties and carrying off the mules. A party of them, in search of plunder, even dared to make their way into Magdala, where they were captured by the guard of the 33rd Regiment.

On the 15th and 16th, the disarmed soldiers and people of Magdala made their exodus from Arogie.

Every consideration was shown them, and they were allowed to take all their property.

The Arogie defile was guarded by infantry, and their procession, after crossing the Bashilo, was guarded by cavalry patrols until they reached Waddeba.

No doubt many of these people deserved little mercy at the hands of the peasants of Dalanta, who had suffered so much misery from Theodore's troops; but, having surrendered to the British force, it was incumbent on us to protect them until they reached a point of safety, from whence they could go to their native districts.

On the morning of the 17th orders were issued to clear every one out of Magdala by 4 p.m. At that hour the whole of the captured ordnance having been destroyed, the gates of Magdala were blown up and the whole of the buildings were committed to the flames.

The wounded Abyssinians who had no friends to take charge of them were conveyed into our hospitals.

The elephants and heavier ordnance having been sent in advance on the 15th, on the 18th of April the force re-crossed the Bashilo, on its return to the coast.

I have the honour to enclose plans and photographs to illustrate the course of the operations.

I regret that I have not been able to complete my despatch earlier, but owing to the marching in a difficult country, which has occupied the greater part of the days, and the many demands on my time, it has been quite out of my power.

By the next mails I hope to submit the conclusion of my despatch, which will include the re-embarkation of the greater part of the force, and I shall then have the satisfaction to represent for the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government the services of the officers and men of the force which I have had the honour to command, of which it is impossible for me to write in too high terms, and to which I could not now do adequate justice.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

NOMINAL ROLL of Officers and Men Wounded at the Capture of Magdala, on 13th April, 1868.
Camp, near Magdala, April 15, 1868.

Corps.	Regi- mental Number.	Rank and Name.	Character of the Wound.
Royal Engineers	—	Major Gordon Pritchard	Two slight wounds by splinters of stones in right shoulder with considerable contusion.
"	5957	Lance-Corp. E. Wm. Hobson	Slight splintered wound of right leg.
"	3470	Sapper H. T. Davis	Slight splintered wound of forehead.
H.M.'s 33rd Regiment	—	Serjeant Edward Jones	Gun-shot wound through right calf; severely.
"	—	Private Stephen Lake	Gun-shot wound through right leg; severely.
"	—	" T. Hayne	Spear wound over frontal bone; slight.
"	—	" P. Daly	Gun-shot wound left hand; slight.
"	—	" Hickson	Gun-shot wound of knee; slight.
3rd Light Cavalry	—	Sowar Ramjee Khan	Gun-shot wound right forearm; severely.
Madras Sappers and Miners	—	Havildar Koondua Swamee	Gun-shot wound left elbow joint; severely.

The following Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers were also hurt near the gateway, but were not returned as wounded.

Captain Elliott, Madras Sappers.

Cornet Dalrymple, 19th Hussars, attached to Madras Sappers.

Serjeant Fielding, Madras Sappers.

Serjeant Dean, 10th Company Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant Morgan, 10th Company Royal Engineers.

S. CURRIE,
Inspector-General of Hospitals and
Principal Medical Officer.

G. MAHAFFY, M.D.,
Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical
Department; A.E.F.

RETURN of Ordnance captured by the Force under His Excellency Sir R. Napier, G.C.S.I. and K.C.B., in the Magdala Fortress, on the 13th April, 1868.

Camp, near Magdala.

No.	Guns.		Remarks.
	Metal.	Description.	
3	Brass	56-pounder, 5-inch smooth bore.	
1	Do.	18 "	
4	Do.	6 " "	Turkish.
4	Do.	6 " "	
2	Do.	6 " "	English. Cast at Cossipore.
1	Do.	6 " "	French.
5	Do.	24 howitzer	Native and French.
3	Do.	12-inch howitzer,	
1	Do.	3-inch gun.	
4	Iron	1 do.	

NOMINAL ROLL of Men Wounded in the Action before Magdala, on the 10th April 1868.

Magdala, April 11, 1868.

Corps.	Regi- mental Number.	Rank and Names.	Character of the Wound.
H.M.'s 4th King's Own	—	Captain Edward Roberts	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left elbow joint.
" "	672	Sergeant Musketry Instructor Michael Creedon.	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left leg.
" "	333	Private George Kirby	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left humerus.
" "	1008	Lance-Corp. Richard Odwell	Severely; gun-shot wound of left foot.
" "	502	Private George Sinfield	Slightly; gun-shot wound of right hand.
" "	887	" Michael Unica	Slightly; gun-shot wound of right hand.
" "	—	Lance-Corporal Hugh Evans	Slightly; splinter wound of left eye.
23rd Punjaub Native Infantry	375	Private Deal Sing	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left femur.
Pioneer	—	" Basa Kall	Severely; spear wound of neck.
"	—	" Rall Sing	Severely; gun-shot wound of sacrum.
"	—	" Utter Sing	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left femur.
"	—	" Jewal Sing	Severely; gun-shot wound of face.
"	879	Bugler Khosal Sing	Severely; gun-shot wound of right hand.
"	—	Private Jeeta Sing	Severely; gun-shot wound of right thigh.
"	1355	" Sunoop Sing	Slightly; contusion of abdomen from a bullet.
"	—	" Goorom Sing	Slightly; gun-shot wound of left foot.
"	—	" Hura Sing	Slightly; spear wound of hand.
"	—	" Jewan Sing	Slightly; spear wound of hand.
"	—	" Jawala Sing	Slightly; spear wound of thumb.
Bombay Sappers and Miners	—	C.H. Sumboo	Slightly; lost two teeth, upper lip divided by a musket bullet.

S. CURRIE,
Inspector-General and Principal
Medical Officer.

G. MAHAFFY, M.D.,
Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Service,
First Division, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

(From Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B., Commanding the 1st Division of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, to the Deputy-Adjutant-General.)

Sir, Head Quarters, Camp before Magdala, April 14, 1868.
Having been directed by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to report on the disposition made of the division under my command for the attack of Magdala on the 13th instant, a brief description of the place will first be necessary.

The defences consist of three very steep mountains, named Fahla, Selassee, and Magdala, each being surrounded at the top by steep and precipitous scarps. Fahla and Magdala are joined to Selassee by saddles, and are nearly at right angles to it. A tolerably good, but in some places very steep, road leads from the British camp up the north side of Fahla, over the saddle along the south of Selassee, and over the next saddle called Islamgie, into Magdala. A pathway branches off this road at the Fahla saddle to the left, along the foot of the Selassee scarp for some distance, and then turns up a zigzag to the top, another pathway leads direct up to Selassee from the Fahla saddle. Neither of these paths were found practicable for mules, although we had been informed that they were. The summits of Fahla and Magdala are flat, that of Selassee slopes upwards from the scarp to the centre, and commands the other two mountains.

On the morning of the 13th instant at seven o'clock a detail of 50 sabres of the 3rd Light Cavalry (Bombay) and 12th Bengal Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, of the 3rd Light Cavalry, was sent up to the Fahla saddle, and placed at the disposal of Captain Speedy of the Intelligence Department, to communicate with those of the King's Troops who had surrendered.

On the advance being ordered at half-past eight a.m., according to instructions received from the Commander-in-Chief, the G. 14, R.A., under Captain Murray, and the two 8-inch mortars under Captain Hills, R.A., were placed under Colonel Wallace, R.H.A., in a position covering the troops with Selassee in front and Fahlah on the right, the A 21, Mountain Battery, under Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, having ascended a short distance with the column was placed in position on a

spur to the left of the road to cover the head of the ascent, whilst the B 21, R.A., under Captain Twiss, followed next in rear of the leading battalion of infantry.

The 3rd Dragoon Guards, under Lieutenant-Colonel Tower, the 3rd Light Cavalry, under Captain Moore, and the 12th Bengal Cavalry, under Major Gough, V.C., the whole under the command of Colonel Graves, of the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, were sent round to the south, and below the mountain, to prevent the escape of the Magdala garrison in that direction.

The division moved up the road, the 2nd Brigade, with a ladder party of Sappers, leading. A company of the Belooch Battalion was sent up the first accessible spur on the right into Fahla, and two companies of the 10th Regiment Native Infantry up the next spur.

On arriving at the Saddle the advanced guard of two companies of the 33rd Regiment were sent up the direct path to Selassee, and the remainder of the 2nd Brigade, and B. 21, R.A., by the pathway above described, to the left. The path up the zigzag was so bad, that, although practicable for infantry, only three mountain guns could be passed up, and those by hand. The 1st Brigade moved along the high road to the south of Selassee, followed now by Captain Murray's battery, the two 8-inch mortars, and the Naval Rocket Brigade.

The 2nd Brigade crowned Selassee before the 1st Brigade had moved along its southern side. I mention this because Mr. Waldemar, one of the released European prisoners, and my guide on the occasion, informed me afterwards, from information he had received, that King Theodore imagined we should advance by the high road along the south of Selassee, without first occupying Selassee, and had arranged accordingly to fall on our troops from the heights overlooking that part of the road; so far, for reasons which it is unnecessary for me to explain, no opposition was offered to our advance.

The 2nd Brigade having occupied Selassee, the King's troops were ordered to lay down their arms, and retire to the plain below; the first order was immediately carried out, and thousands of men, women, and children left the mountain so soon as the narrow exit permitted.

Some of the enemy, and amongst them the King, being observed on the Islamgee Saddle, below Selassee, a company of the 23rd Regiment, under Captain Campbell, was pushed down the slope to the Saddle, and the cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, advanced along the road; these parties were fired on by the enemy, but the fire being returned, and some of the King's guns being turned on him by order of Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, he soon retired into Magdala.

I now received the orders of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to make the following dispositions for the assault of Magdala by the 2nd Brigade, supported by the 1st.

The 33rd Regiment, ten companies strong, to advance across Islamgie, two companies skirmishing, and two in support, the remaining six companies, under Major Cooper, commanding the regiment, headed by a detachment of the Royal Engineers under Major Pritchard, and the K. Company Madras Sappers and Miners under Captain Elliott, with powder bags, crow bars, and ladders, to form the storming party.

Two companies of Bombay Sappers and Miners, under Captain Leslie and Lieutenant Leacock, to follow in rear of 33rd Regiment.

On nearing the steep ascent to Magdala gate the skirmishers to halt, and be reinforced by the supports, and keep up a fire at the gate and defences during the ascent of the storming party.

The 45th Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Parish, to advance in line in rear of the 33rd Regiment, and the 1st Brigade in column some distance in rear in reserve, except the Punjaub Pioneers, left with two companies of the 10th Bombay Native Infantry to guard the camp.

Two companies of the 10th Native Infantry, under Colonel Field, to remain on Selassee to guard the arms, and clear the Abyssinians off the mountain.

The two mountain, and the Naval Rocket, Batteries, under Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, to be placed on the north end of Islamgie, to cover the advance, and keep up a fire at Magdala Gate.

The G. 14, R.A., and 2 8-inch mortars, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace, now arrived on elephants from below, to advance along the main road south of Selassee as far as practicable, and also cover the advance of the troops.

I leave it to his Excellency how far these dispositions were carried out.

There were two lines of defence, with a gate in each, at the head of the very steep and strong ascent of the point of attack; the first gate had a porch 15 feet deep, filled up as high as 12 feet with large stones. From this line of defence the enemy kept up a fire through the loop holes of a wall, topped with a strong fence, and a passage for the column could not be effected here until a ladder had been passed over a wall to the right of the gate.

In the meantime some men of the 33rd Regiment scrambled up a cliff to the right, and succeeding with much difficulty in surmounting the wall and fence, turned the enemy at the gate, and, with the head of the column, drove him to the second line of defence above; this being comparatively weak, no further resistance was offered.

On entering the second, the body of King Theodore was found shot through the head by his own hand.

The only two gates by which the garrison might have moved out being watched, the one to the south by our cavalry, and the other to the east by the Gallas, the men lay down their arms, and begged for mercy; this was accorded, and not a man was injured.

I inclose a return of our wounded, all of whom were taken the night of the assault to the field hospital, 2nd Brigade, where they received every attention from Surgeon-Major Wyllie, the Medical Officer in charge.

I also inclose a return showing the number of rank and file of the corps who took part in the attack, and a return of the ordnance found on the three mountains and destroyed; also a photograph of the attack on Magdala, from a sketch by Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster-General.

I wish to bring the names of the following officers to the notice of his Excellency:—Brigadier-General Wilby, who commanded the 2nd Brigade, and led it to the assault. He mentions the very effective service rendered him by Captain Hicks, his Brigade Major, Captain James, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, and Captain Capel, 12th Bengal Cavalry, A.D.C.

Major Pritchard, R.E. (who was wounded), the senior officer with the Royal Engineers and Sappers, and who mentions the able assistance he received from Captain Elliott, commanding K Company, Madras Sappers.

Captain Foord, Lieutenant Bird, Cornet Dalrymple, and Surgeon Pearl, of the Madras Sappers, Sergeants Harrold and Dean, R.E., Corporal McDonagh, and Sapper Bailey.

Major Cooper, commanding 33rd Regiment, who led his regiment to and over the gate, and I beg here to bring especially to notice No. 3691, Drummer Michael Magner, and No. 949, Private James Bergin, 33rd Regiment, the two men who first forced an entrance to the extreme right and turned the gate.

Captain Elliott, who commanded the Madras Sappers.

Captain McDonnell, Commanding Bombay Sappers; Lieutenant-Colonel Parish, Commanding 45th Regiment; Colonel Field, Commanding 10th Regiment Native Infantry; Brigadier-General Schneider, Commanding 1st Brigade; Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron, Commanding 4th King's Own Royal Regiment; Major Beville, Commanding Wing Belooch Regiment; Major Chamberlain, Commanding 23rd Punjaub Pioneers; Brigadier-General Petrie, Commanding Royal Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace, Commanding Division Royal Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, Commanding Division Royal Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, Commanding A. 21, Royal Artillery.

Commander Fellowes, Commanding Naval Rocket Batteries.

Captain Twiss, Commanding B. 21, Royal Artillery.

Colonel Graves, 3rd Brigade Light Cavalry, Commanding Cavalry Brigade; Lieutenant-Colonel Tower, Commanding 3rd Dragoon Guards; Major Gough, V.C., Commanding 12th Bengal Cavalry; Major Briggs, Commanding Sind Horse; Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, Commanding Details of Cavalry; Captain Moore, Commanding 3rd Brigade Light Cavalry; Lieutenant W. Scott, A.D.C., Commanding the Commander-in-Chief's Escort.

Lieutenant A. Le Messurier, Royal Engineers; Captain Leslie, and Lieutenant Leacock, Bombay Sappers, Captain Bainbridge, Land Transport Corps, who had the very difficult duty of providing water for the troops throughout the operations since leaving the Bashilo River.

Captains Ross and Griffiths and Twentyman, 20th Hussars, Commanding Divisions Land Transport Corps; Major Mignon, Assistant Commissary-General, 1st Division, whose difficulties are well known to the Commander-in-Chief; Major Bardin, Assistant Commissary-General, 1st Brigade, and Major Goldsworthy, Brigade Major of Cavalry, acting as Assistant Commissary-General, 2nd Brigade; Dr. Mahaffy, Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, whose arrangements for the field hospitals were all that could be desired.

Surgeon-Major Wyllie, in charge of the Field Hospitals, 2nd Brigade.

I desire also to bring to notice the Officers of my Staff:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Wood, Assistant Adjutant-General; Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster-General; Lieutenant Saunders, 20th Hussars, Aide-de-Camp; and Captain George Arbuthnot, extra Aide-de-Camp.

These officers rendered me great assistance in carrying out the orders of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief during the day, and have served with me since my first arrival at Zoulla, with the first arrived brigade.

I have, &c.

C. STAVELEY, Major-General,
Commanding 1st Division Abyssinian Field Force.

RETURN of Ordnance captured by the Force under His Excellency Sir Robert Napier, G.C.S.I. and K.C.B., in the Magdala Fortress, on the 13th April 1868.

Camp, near Magdala.

Guns.

- 3 brass 56-pounders, smooth bore.
- 1 brass 18-pounder, smooth bore.
- 4 brass 6-pounders, smooth bore, Turkish.
- 4 brass 6-pounders, smooth bore.
- 2 brass 6-pounders, smooth bore, English, cast at Cossipore.
- 1 brass 6-pounder, smooth bore, French.
- 5 brass 24-pounders, howitzer, Native and French.
- 3 brass 12-pounders, howitzer.
- 1 brass 3-pounder, howitzer.
- 4 iron 1-pounder, howitzer.

Mortars.

1 brass 20-inch.
1 brass 13-inch.
2 brass 10-inch.
5 brass from 2½ to 6 inch.

N.B.—The guns, howitzers, and mortars were all found serviceable, and supplied with ammunition, except one 56-pounder, which had burst on 10th instant.

J. G. PETRIE, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Royal Artillery, Abyssinian
Expeditionary Force.

NOMINAL ROLL of Officers and Men wounded at the Capture of Magdala, on the 13th April 1868.
Camp, near Magdala, April 15, 1868.

Royal Artillery.

Major Gordon Pritchard, two slight wounds, caused by splinters of stone, on right shoulder, with considerable contusion.

Lance-Corporal William Hobson, No. 5,957, slight splinter wound of right leg.

Sapper Henry Davis, No. 3,470, slight splinter wound of forehead.

Her Majesty's 33rd Regiment.

Sergeant Evan Jones, gunshot wound through right calf; severely.

Private Stephen Lake, gunshot wound through right leg; severely.

Private J. Hayne, spear wound over frontal bone; slight.

Private J. Daly, gunshot wound, left hand; slight.

Private Hickson, gunshot wound of knee; slight.

3rd Light Cavalry.

Sowar Ramjee Khan, gunshot wound of right forearm; severely.

Madras Sappers and Miners.

Havildar Kousbin Swamee, gunshot wound, left elbow joint; severely.

G. MAHAFFY, M.D.,
Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals,
Indian Medical Department, First Division,
Abyssinian Field Force.

S. CURRIE,
Inspector-General and Principal Medical Officer.

RETURN of Killed and Wounded at the Storming of Magdala, on the 13th April 1868.

Camp, near Magdala, April 15, 1868.

Corps.	Officers wounded, slightly.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men wounded,		Total.
		Slightly.	Severely.	
Her Majesty's 33rd Regiment	0	3	2	5
3rd Light Cavalry	0	0	1	1
Madras Sappers and Miners	0	0	1	1
10th Company R.E.	1	2	0	3

Total - - 10

G. MAHAFFY, M.D.,
Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals,
Indian Medical Service, Abyssinian
Field Force.

S. CURRIE,
Inspector-General and Principal Medical Officer.

No. 4.

From Lieut.-General Sir R. NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., to the Secretary of State for India.

Right Honourable Sir,

Camp Adabaga, 19th May 1868.

I have the honour to enclose a statement of the arrangements for the embarkation at Zoolla of the several corps and batteries forming this force.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commanding the Forces in Abyssinia.

ARRANGEMENTS for the Embarkation at Zoolla of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.
Camp Murrawar, 1st May 1868.

Corps.	Officers and European Non-commissioned Rank and File.	Native Officers and Non-commissioned Rank and File.	Followers.	Horses.	Ponies and Mules.	Elephants.	Proposed Date of Embarkation.	Destination.	Remarks.
3rd Dragoon Guards	214	—	126	222	—	40 Elephants to embark for Bombay in separate Ships.	27th May 1868	Suez	Horses and Followers to Bombay, and Volunteers.
3rd Bombay Light Cavalry	10	450	323	467	78		28th and 29th May 1868	Bombay	With horses, mules, tattoos, and Followers complete.
3rd Regiment Sind Horse	9	449	235	416	124		30th and 31st May 1868	Kurrachee	
10th Bengal Cavalry	10	445	306	419	130		1st and 2d June 1868	Bombay	
12th Bengal Cavalry	10	467	273	481	289		3d and 4th June 1868	Bombay	
G. Battery, 14th Brigade R.A.	152	12	112	122	—		30th May 1868	Suez	Horses and Followers to Bombay, and Volunteers.
A. Battery, 21st Brigade, R.A.	99	—	99	11	113		27th May 1868	Suez	Guns, mules, and Followers to Bombay.
B. do. 21st do. do.	82	—	73	15	109		27th May 1868	Suez	Ditto ditto.
5th Battery, 25th do. do.	138	—	270	19	251		15th May 1868	Bombay	To embark with guns, mules, and Followers complete.
1st Comp. Bombay Native Artillery	4	152	43	3	49		15th May 1868	Bombay	—
10th Comp. Royal Engineers	86	—	20	—	25		30th May 1868	Suez	—
G. H. and K. Companies Madras Sappers.	27	348	122	9	1		As soon as all stores are shipped	Madras	By steamer direct to Madras.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Companies, Bombay Sappers.	21	449	70	2	—		Ditto	Bombay	One Company for Aden.
4th K. O. Regiment	722	—	121	4	—		27th May 1868	Suez	Volunteers and Followers to Bombay.
26th Cameronians	851	—	173	21	—		15th May 1868	Bombay	With Followers complete.
33rd Regiment	810	—	143	8	—		30th May 1868	Suez	Volunteers and Followers to Bombay.
45th do.	791	—	98	13	—		1st June 1868	Bombay	With Followers complete.
2nd Regiment Bombay N. I.	6	687	89	7	—		10th May 1868	Bombay	Ditto.
3rd do.	11	679	46	10	—		As soon as all stores are shipped	Bombay	Ditto.
10th do.	9	668	91	11	—		10th and 28th May 1868	Bombay	Ditto.
16th do.	9	696	45	9	—		10th May 1868	Bombay	Ditto.
21st Regiment, Punjab N. I.	7	782	219	7	264		15th May 1868	Bombay	With mules and Followers complete.
1st Comp. 21st Bombay N. I.	1	65	11	—	—		10th May 1868	Bombay	With Followers complete. To embark with wing 10th N. I.
23rd Regiment, Punjab N. I.	10	727	216	10	359		31st May 1868	Bombay	Do. and mules complete.
25th do. Bombay N. I.	8	584	89	11	—		As soon as all stores are shipped	Bombay	With Followers complete.
27th do. do. (Beloochees)	9	713	68	10	—		28th May 1868	Kurrachee	Ditto.
Bengal Cooley Corps	7	—	1432	—	—		As soon as all stores are shipped	Bombay	Ditto.
Bombay Army Works Corps	9	—	858	4	—		Ditto	Bombay	Ditto.

L. HOLLAND, Captain,
Assistant Qr.-Mr.-General,
Army Head Quarters; A.E.F.

Notes for Embarkation Orders.

Final survey boards should assemble on each ship as in Bombay prior to embarkation. The proceedings should be made out in duplicate, one copy being sent to this office for record, and the other given to the officer commanding the troops on board for delivery at the port of debarkation. These survey boards should assemble as a rule three days before the date named for the embarkation.

The Naval Brigade will rejoin H. M. Steam Frigates "Octavia" and "Satellite," under orders which will be hereafter issued.

Special instructions regarding the embarkation of Land Transport animals will be sent hereafter; arrangements should, however, be made to prepare and provision ships for all the effective mules, all the elephants, and 500 of the best camels.

Application has been made for the services of the Indian troop ships "Malabar," "Jumna," and "Euphrates," for the transport of troops from Zoolla, and for the troop ships "Crocodile" and "Serapis" from Alexandria to Portsmouth.

No. 5.

Lieut.-General Sir R. NAPIER to the Military Secretary, India Office.

Sir,

Camp Senafe, 27th May 1868.

As the troops which have composed the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, will, I trust, all have embarked by the 3rd of June, with the exception of the Madras and Bombay Sappers, the 3rd and 25th Regiments Bombay Native Infantry, the Bengal Coolies, and Bombay Works Corps, which I purpose to leave on the coast for a few days to protect the stores, which it is hoped will have been shipped before the 15th of June, I have the honour to solicit the orders of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India in regard to the disposal of the departmental records. As these relate to and may contain matter which affects the interests of the British as well as the Indian armies of the three Presidencies, the Secretary of State may perhaps consider the India Office the most suitable place for depositing them.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

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ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

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THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

SELECTIONS FROM THE DESPATCHES OF SIR ROBERT NAPIER.

No. 1.

Lieutenant-General SIR R. NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Camp, Koomeylee,

Right Honourable Sir,

June 1, 1868.

In continuation of my Despatch, No. 40, dated 12th May, I have the honour to report that I this day passed the Sooroo defile with the last column of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, the 25th Bombay Native Light Infantry and the 27th Belooch Battalion.

The march from Dalanta to Antalo was trying, from the frequent severe storms of rain which appeared to accompany us, and from which our troops, in some degree, and more especially the followers and transport animals, could not fail to suffer.

The wild border tribes of Abyssinians and Gallas, through whom our route lay from the Taccassi to Antalo, being very little under the control of their distant and almost nominal rulers, and were perfectly well behaved on our advance, finding by degrees our vulnerable points, had been for some time making attacks upon our muleteers and camp followers, when venturing far from their escorts, and on some occasions even on our armed soldiers.

In the first instances some camp followers were killed, and in the last our soldiers being driven to use their weapons, several Abyssinians and Gallas were killed and wounded.

Considerable numbers of armed men, principally Gallas, watched our march from the hills, and though restrained by the pressure of our columns, they made attempts on our line of baggage, but met with little success; soldiers were freely interspersed along the line, and the rear guard from Marowa to Antalo was continuously under the command of an experienced officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bray, of the 4th (King's Own) Regiment, until we reached the coast.

This was a very clear indication of what a force returning in difficulties would experience.

In the friendly territory of Prince Russai the troops returned to marches made easy by the improved roads and the increased supplies of articles of food, turned into great luxuries by a period of privation, which were stored in the fortified ports of Antalo and Addigerat.

All local information led me to believe that there would be no danger of floods before the middle of June, but owing to the extraordinary severity of the spring rains, a succession of floods during the early part of May did much damage to the Sooroo defile road.

On the 19th of May, with hardly any warning, a heavy flood, coming from a lateral tributary which enters above Sooroo, filled the Sooroo defile channel so suddenly that seven camp followers and some cattle, not being instantly removed from the waterway, were swept away and perished.

On the 30th of January full precautionary instructions were issued to secure the safety of the troops in the Pass, and I had no apprehension on their account. The losses of the 19th arose from avoidable causes, and were not likely to recur.

In case we might be detained during the rainy season, an alternative line, turning the Sooroo defile, had been surveyed by Lieutenant De Thoren, 45th Regiment, Quarter-

master-General's Department, by which a safer, though less even path, might have been opened.

By the exertions of the garrison of Sooroo, directed by Captain Chrystie, Royal Engineers, the damage to the road in the Pass was rapidly repaired after each flood.

The severe weather in the high mountains, with the reaction after excitement and the scanty food, naturally increased the sick lists, but there are few bad cases.

The wounded are rapidly recovering, and although the total number of sick ultimately amounted to 260, no member of the force, however humble, has failed to obtain transport when required.

The whole force have returned in safety to the coast, and the greater part have already re-embarked.

It is now my duty to lay before Her Majesty's Government a statement of the services of the troops under my command, and of the General, Departmental, and Personal Staff.

Those who first claim notice are the Pioneer Force, who landed in Zoulla in October last, and consisted of Major Maret's Mountain Battery (Native), the 3rd and 4th companies of Bombay Sappers and Miners under Captains Leslie and Leacock, the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Graves, and the 10th Native Infantry, under Colonel Field, who commanded the whole.

Their labours were not commenced under very encouraging circumstances: a barren shore, so shelving that the troops had to wade several hundred yards daily in landing stores; a supply of water so scanty that it disappeared immediately, and a temperature so sultry that any exertion was oppressive. But the spirit of the troops never flagged, encamping grounds were cleared, 20 miles of road were made from the coast to Koomeylee and towards Sooroo, a depôt was established at Senafe, and huts erected for the Muleteers.

Lieutenant Beck's Company of the Bombay Marine Battalion was the first party of Infantry in Abyssinia, amongst the earliest labourers in the Sooroo defile, and throughout the campaign performed most valuable service as Pioneers, in sinking wells, and opening and maintaining the road to Senafe.

The left wing of the 10th garrisoned Senafe, and had a large share in the works which made the depôt a model of neatness and of convenience in its water supply.

The right wing of the 10th formed part of the advanced Pioneer column, and shared in all its labours; after five months of work, it had an unwilling rest at Antalo, and was soon again in the front, and at the capture of Magdala.

The next arrivals in the country were Murray's Armstrong Battery, the 33rd Regiment under Colonel Dunn, V.C., and Beville's Belooch Battalion.

Captain Murray, during a long detention of his battery at Koomeylee, sought occupation for his men in every way that could aid our progress. It mattered little whether they cleared the obstructions in seven miles of road, carried water for six miles to support a working party, moved stores for the Commissariat, broke in mules to harness, or fitted them with packsaddles; everything was done with the same ability and zeal that has carried the battery over 800 miles of mountains in efficient condition.

The 33rd Regiment furnished a detachment of two companies to Koomeylee, for sinking wells. They were the first British infantry in Abyssinia; they furnished heavy fatigue parties for all the works at Zoulla. In the absence of a sufficient number of the Land Transport Corps the men converted themselves into extemporaneous muleteers, and re-caught and saved large numbers of mules which would otherwise have perished. They then proceeded to Senafe.

The Belooch Regiment went to Koomeylee, where Major Beville, with the right wing, joined Sturt's Bombay Sappers in making the admirable road in the Sooroo defile. Major Hogg, with the left wing, made the scarcely less difficult one at Rary Guddie. The Beloochees then garrisoned Addigerat, and raised much of the intrenchments there. The right wing partook of all the labours of the advance, and was present at Arogie and Magdala. The left wing, long delayed for carriage, at length pressed to the front, and, by hard marching, was present at Magdala on the 13th April.

The 10th Company Royal Engineers, under Major Pritchard, composed of a body of highly instructed and valuable soldiers, arrived from England, and was amongst the first to land at Zoulla.

The well sinkers, directed by Lieutenant Le Mesurier, the signallers, under Lieutenant Morgan, and the telegraphers and photographers have rendered excellent service throughout the campaign. The head quarters of the 10th Company has always accompanied the leading column in the advance.

The 4th King's Own Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron, with the 3rd and 25th Bombay Native Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonels Campbell and

Little, on arrival at Zoulla were immediately put to work upon the railway, on landing water and stores for the force, and on the embankments to protect the Commissariat stores which were liable to be inundated at spring tides; all these were heavy labours which left no soldier unemployed.

Nothing could exceed the spirit with which these regiments worked in order to hasten the advance. The work on the foreshore fell chiefly on the native troops. Little could the mud-bespattered labourer with his basket be recognized as the smart sepoy of the parade ground.

Major Chamberlain's pioneers, on arrival, at once took their place on the works; they brought the energy and the spirit of their race, together with their organization for skilled labour, to bear on every duty, and the works received an increased impetus.

At 50 feet below the surface they found sweet water, an inestimable blessing to the Ishmaelites of Zoulla, who in their gratitude were ready to worship the Punjaubees. There is no part of the way which does not bear marks of the labour of this regiment, either on the roads or the telegraph.

The 33rd Regiment was never idle; at Senafe and Antalo every man was employed, not only in making the roads and intrenchments, but in cutting and bringing in grass and wood for the Commissariat and poles for the telegraph. When joined by the 4th King's Own Regiment they bore the first brunt of opening the way through the rocky mountains of Lasta to Magdala.

The A and B Batteries, 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, under Lieutenant-Colonel Penn and Captain Twiss, took over the steel mountain guns on landing; they broke in mules, fitted their harness, and made extraordinary progress in the organization of these batteries, which maintained their thorough efficiency during the march to Magdala and back.

Whilst waiting for the time when they could advance, and when the provisioning of Senafe was of the first importance, these batteries carried up several convoys of stores and provisions to that post.

The 5th Battery, 25th Brigade, Royal Artillery (brass rifled mountain guns), under Major Bogle, arrived from Calcutta, complete and efficient in every particular of equipment.

The circumstances of the campaign did not permit this battery to join the advance troops; but while waiting at Zoulla before they advanced to Senafe, Major Bogle volunteered the services of his battery for every useful work. In carrying treasure and stores to Senafe the battery marched nearly 1,000 miles. It furnished a detachment, under Major Hills, V.C., which manned two 8-inch mortars, a valuable battery on elephants, which was carried to Magdala and employed in the attack on that fortress. In case of a protracted defence these mortars would have been invaluable.

Elephants have frequently been employed for the transport of Artillery in Indian warfare, but it has been generally by means of draught; when guns have been carried it has only been for short distances.

It has been the privilege of this campaign to prove that elephants could carry Armstrong twelve-pounder guns and eight-inch mortars over steep mountains for many hundreds of miles.

There were forty-two elephants employed in the conveyance of ordnance and ammunition, and of these five have been lost from hard work and want of water during the operations before Magdala.

The Royal Naval Rocket Brigade, under Commander Fellowes, furnished chiefly by Her Majesty's Ship "Octavia," broke in their own mules, quickly learned duties and a drill which were new to them, carried stores and provisions to Senafe, marched well, and were with the leading brigade in the advance on Magdala. They have added to the high reputation which the Royal Navy have ever held when serving with the army in the field.

The 45th Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Parish, arrived at Zoulla early in February, and remained there employed on the railway and other works until the 19th of March, when at length the obstacles to their advance being overcome, the head quarters and six companies making most strenuous efforts to reach the front, arrived at Dalanta in time to share in the operations against Magdala, after having marched 300 miles in 24 days, accomplishing the last 70 miles across the Wandach Pass, 10,500 feet high, and the Taccassi and Jeddah ravines in four days,—a rate of marching in such a country hardly to be surpassed. Four companies being urgently required were detained at Koomeylee until late in March, when they were sent to garrison Addigerat and Antalo.

In addition to the severe mountain marches, in which each soldier carried a heavy load, regiments of ten worked at the roads on the line of march, or immediately on arrival in camp. Not unfrequently every available man of a regiment has been on working parties or outlying picket.

The constant storms of rain and the cold nights of the high altitude were encountered cheerfully, on rations reduced to eight ounces of flour and meat only. An increase was made to the allowance of meat it is true, but that increase gave no compensation for the articles of rum, sugar, and compressed vegetables, which had to be left behind.

The 2nd Bombay Grenadiers and 18th Bombay Native Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonels Muter and Combe, and the 21st Bengal Native Infantry (Punjaubees), by Major Thelwall, C.B., while longing for an order to advance, contributed most cheerfully their labours for many weeks to the railway, the roads through the Pass, the wells, the water supply, and the conservancy of the Pass.

Of the regiments of the 4th Brigade, which had been held in readiness in Bombay, the 26th Cameronians, under Lieutenant-Colonel Henning, alone landed, and were moved as quickly as possible to Senafe; but short as was the detention of this regiment at Zoulla, it also contributed its labours to forward the work at our base.

The 5th and 8th Regiments Bombay Native Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonels Taylor and Sandwith, both regiments with a high reputation, returned to India on the fall of Magdala without having landed in Abyssinia.

These three regiments were all wanted earlier, but were not sent for, because they could not have been moved to the highlands for want of food and transport.

Before the arrival of the Cameronians, when the connecting posts of our line had been numerically much weaker than I desired, I had obtained the services of 200 seamen and marines, under Captain Colin Campbell, from Her Majesty's Ship "Octavia." They marched towards Senafe, but the arrival of the Cameronians rendered their proceeding onwards no longer necessary.

The cavalry service has been such as to call for the fullest powers of that arm as light cavalry.

The long line of communication required that the cavalry should be in many detachments.

They have had peculiar responsibility thrown upon their officers and soldiers. Left in isolated positions, far from control, intrusted with commissariat duties, while charged to be conciliatory to the people of the country, they have been firm in maintaining inviolate the respect due to their position as soldiers. The supplies for the troops marching to join the main force in advance frequently depended on the ability and trustworthiness of a non-commissioned officer of cavalry, and I have had repeated testimony to the efficiency with which these duties have been performed.

Seldom or never have cavalry had such a variety of duties in maintaining communications for so many miles, climbing over mountains and through forest ranges, often benighted, where a false step would be destruction, and in danger of treacherous attacks from the wild border tribes, who are honoured amongst themselves for slaying without reason and without scruple.

The wear and tear of horses in such duties have been very considerable. The men, however, have returned to their more regular duties with a discipline and efficiency unimpaired.

The wing of the 3rd Dragoon Guards was long detained in India, and arrived late in the campaign.

Notwithstanding the distance and the severity of the country through which they marched, Colonel Tower by judicious management brought both men and horses in the most efficient condition in time to share in the investment of Magdala.

The 3rd Bombay Cavalry and the 3rd Regiment Sind Horse, commanded by Major Briggs, having been the earliest in the field, have borne the hardest share of the duties, serving in their turn as parts of the Pioneer Force.

The rough training of the Sind Frontier Brigade, ever on outpost duty, rendered Major Briggs' Regiment admirably qualified for the duties which it was called upon to perform in Abyssinia.

The 12th and 10th Bengal Cavalry, under Majors Gough, V.C., and Palliser, took up on the 18th of March, and the 1st of April, the chain of posts between Antalo and the Taccassi, and Major Gough brought up the head quarter detachment of the 12th, reduced to 96 men, to share in the attack on Magdala.

Major Palliser, with the head quarters of the 10th Cavalry, arrived at Attala in most opportune time to preserve our communications, which were very seriously assailed; had the service been of longer duration the regiments of Bengal Cavalry would have

added to the high opinions which their soldierlike performance of their duties and efficient equipment have called forth.

The Royal Engineers, directed by Lieutenant-Colonel St. Clair Wilkins, have rendered invaluable services during this expedition, which has given such an ample field for their employment.

Their energy and skill are shown in every work, from the first landing in Zoulla to Magdala, and require a special separate report.

The works of the Madras and Bombay Sappers and Miners, under Major Prendergast, V.C., Royal Engineers, and Captain MacDonnell, Royal Engineers, have been singularly valuable and important, and will be described in the report of the Engineer operations.

The very great services of the Commissariat Department, directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Lucas, and of the Transport Corps, directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Warden, both under the control of Lieutenant-Colonel Holland, of the Commissariat Department, have been rendered under many disadvantages, and require a separate report to do full justice to the officers and subordinates of their establishments.

The duties of the Medical Department, under the chief direction of Dr. Currie, C.B., Inspector-General, have been efficiently and satisfactorily performed.

The necessities of the campaign demanded that the equipment of the Medical, equally with those of every other department with the advanced troops, should be reduced to the lowest possible scale, but with the very limited means at their disposal Dr. Currie and the Deputy Inspectors-General, Dr. Pelly and Dr. Mahaffy, together with the Regimental and Staff Officers serving under them, performed their duties in a manner which has reflected great credit on that department of the Army.

The services of the Veterinary Department, under Staff Veterinary-Surgeon Hallen, an able and valuable officer, have been of the highest importance.

A copy of Mr. Hallen's report on the working of this department is attached; Mr. Hallen makes special mention of the services of First Class Veterinary Surgeons Lamb and Anderson.

The telegraph, directed by the intelligence and experience of Captain St. John, Royal Engineers, and by Lieutenant Puzey, Royal Engineers, was carried to Antalo under circumstances of great difficulty, and although the wire was often mischievously cut, and communication interrupted, it was immediately restored. Errors were most rare. The telegraph worked well, and rendered important service.

The officers of the Trigonometrical Survey, Lieutenants Carter, Director, and Dummmler and Holdich, Royal Engineers, Assistants, by the most strenuous exertions, and at the cost of great fatigue and privations, succeeded in surveying nearly 6,000 square miles, and carried their work from the coast to Magdala.

The labour of these officers, two of whom have been obliged to return to England from loss of health, will prove very valuable.

I am greatly indebted to Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B., who has afforded me the most valuable support and assistance throughout the campaign. He laid the first foundation of order at Zoulla, and when summoned to the front, ably commanded the First Division during the advance, in the action of Arogie, and at the capture of Magdala. As second in command he has possessed my fullest confidence.

Major-General Malcolm, C.B., commanded the Second Division, which held the line of country from Senafe to Antalo, and subsequently to Lake Ashangie.

It required great temper and judgment to maintain the good understanding which I had established with the Chiefs and people of the country.

General Malcolm did this, and by his vigilance and activity kept the communications in Tigre in good order, and restored order in the district of Ashangie.

His Excellency Sir Seymour Fitzgerald was so good as to grant my request for the services of Major-General Russell, who left his important office, military and political, as Resident of Aden, to command at Zoulla.

In the administration of that post, General Russell has entirely fulfilled my expectations and wishes.

I am greatly indebted to him for the excellent manner in which he has conducted the very important and trying duties of his command.

Brigadier-General Collings, an officer of mature judgment and experience, conducted to my satisfaction the command at Antalo, a position of vital importance, both as affording support to the front and as the last point of connexion with the friendly province of Tigre, the supplies of which were so valuable.

Brigadier-General Stewart commanded at Zoulla for some time, and on Major-General Russell's arrival, proceeded to Senafe; in both commands Brigadier-General Stewart met with my approbation.

Brigadier-General Wilby was usefully employed in the Koomeylee Pass, in the earlier stages of the expedition, when the difficulty in arranging the transport of supplies to Senafe was greatest.

In the attack on Magdala General Wilby commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division which assaulted that formidable position.

Brigadier-General Schneider commanded the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division which led during the advance on Magdala, was engaged at Arogie, and in the assault on Magdala.

Both of these officers have met with my approbation in the exercise of their respective commands, and have been very favourably recommended to my notice by Major-General Sir Charles Staveley.

Brigadier-General Petrie, commanding Royal Artillery, has afforded me every assistance. He was constantly present with the advanced troops, and directed the whole of the artillery at Magdala.

General Petrie mentions most favourably his Divisional Commanders, Lieutenant-Colonels Wallace and Milward, whose reports on their respective commands will be forwarded.

It was due very much to the care and judgment of Colonel Wallace that the elephants with the heavy batteries accomplished their unequalled march with so much success.

Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, whose merits I had learnt to appreciate in China, was permitted by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to join me for the special purpose of directing the steel mountain batteries. The success of these weapons has been fully established, and the rapidity and completeness with which they were organized is due to Colonel Milward's experienced direction.

General Petrie also mentions the commanders of batteries, Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, Captains Twiss and Murray, and Brevet-Major Hills, V.C., Majors Marett and Bogle, and particularly his Brigade-Major, Captain Geary, and his Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Chapman, of the Royal Artillery.

Colonel Graves, 3rd Cavalry, very efficiently commanded the whole of the cavalry on several occasions, including the operations before Magdala.

The 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, very soon after its arrival in Abyssinia with the Pioneer Brigade, lost nearly one half of its horses from the epidemic.

Immediate steps were taken to remount the regiment from Egypt and Bombay.

When the force advanced from Antalo, Colonel Graves' regiment was remounted, and, by the great care bestowed on the horses, their condition was preserved in a remarkable manner.

Colonel Graves deserves much credit for the efficiency which his regiment has maintained under these trying circumstances.

Lieutenant-Colonel St. Clair Wilkins, commanding Royal Engineer, arrived in Abyssinia with the reconnoitring party. His report of the operations conducted by the officers of the Royal Engineers will show how unremitting have been his labours, and how extremely valuable have been his services and those of the department under his orders.

Captain Goodfellow, next in seniority, whose services at Zoulla in constructing the pier have already been noticed, was the chief engineer on the highlands, and displayed great intelligence and activity in every duty throughout the operations.

I desire to express my very high appreciation of the services of the officers commanding the several corps of the expeditionary force, and of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers who have served under them during the campaign.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tower, commanding Wing 3rd Dragoon Guards, and Major Miller, who brought the Wing from India in admirable order.

Major Briggs, commanding 3rd Regiment Sind Horse, and Majors Palliser and Gough, V.C., commanding 10th and 12th Regiments Bengal Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, 3rd Light Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace, commanding Heavy Artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, Mountain Rifled Batteries, Captain Murray, commanding G Battery, 14th Brigade, Royal Artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, commanding A Battery, 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, Captain Twiss, commanding B Battery, 21st Brigade, Royal Artillery, Major Bogle, 5th Company, 25th Brigade, Royal Artillery, Major Marett, Native Mountain Train, Major Hills, Elephant Mortar Battery, Commander Fellowes, commanding Naval Rocket Brigade, Major Pritchard, commanding 10th

Company, Royal Engineers, Major Prendergast, V.C., Royal Engineers, Madras Sappers and Miners, Captain MacDonnell, Royal Engineers, Bombay Sappers and Miners.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron has won my admiration by the manner in which he has commanded his excellent regiment (the 4th King's Own), and the soldierlike spirit, which, by his teaching and example, he has so well fostered and maintained.

Colonel Field, Major Chamberlain, and Major Beville, commanding those admirable Native Regiments, the 10th Bombay Native Infantry, the 23d Pioneers, and the 27th Beloochees, Lieutenant Beck, commanding detachment Marine Battalion, Major Pierce, 10th Native Infantry.

Major Cooper, commanding 33rd Regiment (the Duke of Wellington's) which led the assault on Magdala.

Major Cooper was amongst the first who scaled the defences near the gateway.

Drummer McGuire and Private Bergin, of the 33rd, were the first who led the way through the stockade to the right, by which the defences of the gate were turned.

Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, 3rd Bombay Native Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Parish, 45th Regiment (Sherwood Foresters), Lieutenant-Colonel Bray, 4th (King's Own) Regiment, Major Thelwall, C.B., 21st Punjab Infantry, Colonel Little, 25th Bombay Native Light Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Muter, 2nd Bombay Native Infantry (Grenadiers), Lieutenant-Colonel Henning, 26th Cameronians, Lieutenant-Colonel Combe, 18th Bombay Native Infantry.

I am much indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Holland, Controller of Supply and Transports, for the able and judicious manner in which he performed his very responsible duties, and which imperatively detained him at Zoulla, and deprived me of the benefit of his presence at my head quarters.

Also to Lieutenant-Colonel Lucas, Deputy Commissary-General, one of the ablest officers of the department, on whom devolved the whole executive burthen (a burthen which no less efficient and experienced officer could have sustained) of maintaining the supplies at the main base of operations.

Major Mignon, the senior Commissariat Officer on the Highlands, who had the important task of organizing the dépôt during the advance, and Lieutenant Shewell, who were always with the advanced columns, and constantly under my notice. These officers were the pioneers of the Commissariat Department, and I am greatly indebted to them for their most valuable exertions.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warden had a most arduous task in the organization of the Transport Corps.

His divisions were thrown into work even before their establishment or organization were complete. Notwithstanding the misfortunes which beset the corps in its formation, the final result has been most creditable to Lieutenant-Colonel Warden, his second in command Major Nuttall, and the many excellent officers of all branches of the service, whose energy and unremitting exertions have overcome every difficulty.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warden, his officers, and the subordinates of the Transport Corps, I desire to express my deep obligation.

My acknowledgments are due to Dr. Currie, C.B., for his able direction of the Medical Department, to Dr. Pelly, Deputy Inspector-General, who superintended at Zoulla, and under whose immediate charge were the native troops and followers of the expedition.

To Dr. Mahaffy, Deputy Inspector-General with the First Division, and also Deputy Surgeon-Major Guy, Surgeons Madden and Wyllie, and Assistant-Surgeon Martin, whose services have been most favourably brought to notice.

I desire to express my appreciation of the very great services of Staff Veterinary-Surgeon Hallen, First Class Veterinary-Surgeon Lamb, Veterinary-Surgeon Anderson, and the officers of that department, also to Captain Swanson, Royal Artillery, Commissioner of Ordnance, and to Lieutenant-Colonel Bartlett, Treasurer to the Force.

The officers forming the reconnoitring party, consisting of Brigadier-General Merewether, C.B., Colonel Phayre, Quartermaster-General, Bombay Army, Lieutenant-Colonel Wilkins, Royal Engineers, Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster-General, Surgeon Lumsdoine, Captain Pottinger, Royal Artillery, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Assistant Surgeon Martin, who landed at Zoulla in October last, deserve much credit for their valuable service in selecting the Koomaylee defile as the entrance to Abyssinia, a decision arrived at after much labour and research, and fully justified by a further acquaintance with the country.

Brigadier-General Merewether has afforded very valuable service in political duties, in arranging with the various chiefs at Zoulla and on the highlands for the transport of

supplies, and has ever been most zealous at all times and seasons to promote the success of the expedition.

Her Majesty's Government are well aware of Brigadier-General Merewether's increasing exertions in favour of the captives since their first imprisonment.

Brigadier-General Merewether reports very favourably of the assistance he received from Lieutenant Mockler, Assistant Resident, Aden, who remained in charge of the relations with the chiefs of Zoulla, and of the services of his Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Lockhart, of the Bengal Cavalry.

Colonel the Honourable F. Thesiger, Deputy Adjutant-General, left England at two days' notice to join the force in Abyssinia; his thorough knowledge of his duties, combined with great ability and untiring energy, render him a most valuable Staff Officer.

Colonel Thesiger had the duty of keeping me daily, nay hourly, informed of the state of the supplies at every post from Zoulla to head quarters, and in this and other duties has rendered me most important services during the campaign.

Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod, Assistant Adjutant-General, an officer of much experience, and thoroughly acquainted with the native army, has ably supported the head of his department, and has performed his duties greatly to my satisfaction.

I am greatly indebted to Colonel Phayre, Deputy Quartermaster-General, who has rendered most important services in the early examination of the country, the direction of the Pioneer Force to Antalo, and the subsequent advanced reconnaissance.

The very valuable maps and reports of the route, and of the scene of operations, attest the very great energy and intelligence which Colonel Phayre has displayed in the performance of his duties.

Captain Holland, Assistant Quartermaster-General, has had charge of his department at head quarters, and of all correspondence with the Land Transport Corps.

In these duties Captain Holland's exertions have been conspicuous, and the exactness, promptitude, and ability with which they have been carried out deserve my warmest commendation.

Captain Holland afforded me great assistance in the reduction of the camp followers.

Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster-General, an officer of ability and great energy, did very valuable service in the first exploration of the coast in October. During the campaign he has served as Assistant Quartermaster-General of the First Division, and been very favourably noticed by Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, in whose estimation of Major Baigrie I fully concur.

Captain Pottinger, Royal Artillery, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, was very useful with the reconnoitring party.

During the campaign he has been attached to head quarters, he has laboured with zeal, and shown ability in the performance of his duties.

Captain MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, was employed with the advanced reconnaissance, and by his ability and energy proved himself a valuable Staff Officer.

Captain Fawcett, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, was also for some time usefully employed with the advanced reconnaissance.

Major Goldsworthy, Brigade Major of Cavalry, has neglected no occasion during the campaign of making himself useful.

Dr. Lumsdaine, when Sanitary Officer at Zoulla, by introducing a good system and rules for conservancy, and seeing them carried out, contributed in a very important degree to the healthiness of the garrison and civil inhabitants.

I am greatly indebted to Doctor Lumsdaine for his constant attention while forming part of the Head Quarter Staff, and for very valuable voluntary service in many extra duties during the expedition.

Major Maude, Deputy Judge Advocate-General, has performed the duties of his office to my entire satisfaction, and has frequently rendered me useful services whilst attending me during the campaign.

Captain Young, Senior Paymaster in Abyssinia, has had very responsible duties in keeping the commissariat, the depôts, the many columns, and the small posts supplied with money to meet every emergency, duties which he ably and satisfactorily performed. Captain Young accompanied the advance to Magdala.

Captain Hand was nominated to the charge of the Highland Train, when the dimensions of the Transport Corps necessitated the appointment of a sub-director on the highlands.

He had the advantage of the trained muleteers from the Punjab, many of them old soldiers, and accustomed to discipline.

The conduct of the muleeters has generally been extremely good, and the services of the Highland Train has been performed in a manner which reflects great credit on Captain Hand, and the officers immediately under him.

Captain Griffith, Captain Bainbridge, and Captain Twentyman, Captain Hodges, and Lieutenant Ross, have distinguished themselves by their zeal and activity, and deserve special notice.

Captain Hand mentions favourably Lieutenant Gaselee, his Staff Officer, Lieutenants Ramsbottom, Mortimer, Ryves, and Abadie.

In a separate report I have detailed the special services of the Officers of the Intelligence Department, which have been performed immediately under my own orders, or under the Divisional or Brigade Commanders.

I will, therefore, only record here that Mr. Munzinger, the Acting British Consul of Massowa, a gentleman well versed in the languages of Abyssinia, and the earliest in the field, has rendered valuable services, both in the early reconnaissance and throughout the campaign.

Major Grant, C.B., whose African laurels had already been won in another field, Captain Moore, an accomplished Oriental scholar, Meer Akbar Ali; all of these gentlemen have performed very important duties, requiring great tact and judgment.

Major Roome, Bombay Staff Corps, Colonel Brazier, Retired List, have also performed very valuable services.

It would be difficult to enumerate all Captain Speedy's services,—his familiar knowledge of the Amharic language and character of the Abyssinians have rendered him invaluable as an interpreter and envoy. He was already well known by character, and he was immediately accepted by the Abyssinians as a guarantee of good treatment and mutual confidence.

I have received the most valuable assistance from the Officers of my Personal Staff.

I selected Colonel Fraser, V.C., Commandant at head quarters, for the charge of the outposts, a duty of special importance in so intricate a country, which Colonel Fraser performed with increasing vigilance, and to my complete satisfaction.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dillon, Military Secretary, has been by my side, and has shared my labours from the first preparations for the expedition to its close. I cannot too strongly express my obligation to him.

Lieutenant Hozier, Assistant Military Secretary, was obliged, to my regret, to leave the force, from ill-health, during the advance beyond Antalo, but not before he had shown himself to be an officer of great energy and practical ability.

Lieutenant Tweedie, Political Secretary, has performed his special duties with great ability and to my entire satisfaction.

Lieutenant Tweedie attended me in the action of Arogie, and at Magdala.

Captain Arbuthnot, Extra Aide-de-Camp (latterly Assistant Military Secretary), was sent on a special mission to Egypt and Syria, which he executed with much judgment, and returned in time to be present at Magdala.

My Aides-de-Camp, Lieutenant W. Scott, Lieutenant R. Napier, and Cornet Lord Charles Hamilton and Cornet Kennedy, 18th Hussars, have afforded me every satisfaction in the performance of their duties.

Lieutenant W. Scott, with my cavalry escort, took part in the investment of Magdala.

I am very happy in this opportunity of saying how cordially Commodore Heath has conducted the naval duties of the expedition in connexion with the army.

The spirit of their Commander has been emulated by the Officers and the men of the Royal Navy under his orders.

The labour, under a hot sun, of landing supplies and water, and re-embarking troops, followers, and cattle, has never for a single day ceased since the arrival of the first transport in Annesley Bay.

The history of the labour undergone, by which vast quantities of stores and many thousands of men and cattle have been landed and re-embarked without accident, can only be truly told by Commodore Heath himself; but I have much gratification in expressing, on the part of the army, how greatly we are indebted to Commodore Heath and the officers and men of the Royal Navy.

Greatly too are we indebted to Captain Tryon, R.N., the able Director of Transports.

His thoroughly efficient control of the large fleet under his direction, and his readiness of resource, relieved me from all anxiety in regard to his highly responsible and important office.

The campaign has been one of severe military labour from the first landing to the re-embarkation.

Every regiment of infantry carried its own pack of tools, and became pioneers, working hardly, whether in the long marches of the advance or the more trying monotony of the plains of Zoulla.

The port of Zoulla, with its landing piers; the railway, with its numerous bridges; the road through the Koomeylee Pass to Antalo and Magdala; the water supply at all the stations; the intrenchments at Addigerat and at Antalo; the commissariat and transport lines, and the camping grounds, where the most perfect order was required to water quickly many thousands of animals; all formed one great military work on which the campaign has been supported.

It would be impossible for me to do full justice to the merits of each portion of the force.

All ranks and classes have been inspired with the same honourable spirit, whether in military labour or in conflict with the enemy, and have borne themselves as if success depended on their own individual exertions and devotion.

I beg permission gratefully to acknowledge the confidence placed in me by Her Majesty's Government for India, and the unhesitating promptitude with which all my requisitions have been complied with.

I am deeply sensible of the support and encouragement which I have received from His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge in every stage of the expedition.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinia.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Major-General Sir C. STAVELEY, K.C.B., to the Deputy Adjutant-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, Magdala.

SIR,

Camp before Magdala, 14th April 1868.

WITH reference to general orders of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that I received orders to proceed on the morning of the 10th instant with the 1st Brigade, under Brigadier-General Schneider, strength as per margin,* from the Dalanta Plateau across the Bashilo river, and occupy the height above the latter, in front of Magdala; also to cover a reconnaissance by Colonel Phayre, Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Force.

Officers, and
Rank and File.

* A (3rd battery 21st brigade) Royal Artillery	94
Royal Naval Brigade	87
10th Company Royal Engineers	21
4th King's Own Royal Regiment	473
1st Company Madras Sappers	77
Head Quarters (3 Companies) Bombay Sappers	288
23rd Punjaub Pioneers	600
27th Belooch Regiment, Head Quarters (Wing)	260

Four companies of Sappers were ordered to make a road for elephants up the height, and the A (3rd battery 21st brigade) Mountain Battery under Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, and the Rocket Batteries, Naval Brigade, under Commander Fellowes, R.N., were to ascend the

plateau, when a road was reported practicable by Captain Goodfellow, R.E., senior Engineer Officer.

The march proved a most distressing one for the troops, laden as they were, for want of transport, with great coat, waterproof sheet, and blanket. The ascent is very long and steep, and the animals carrying water being unable to keep up with the column, the troops suffered severely from thirst.

The Deputy Quartermaster-General having sent me a report that the King's Road up the Arogie Pass on our left was secure for guns and baggage, and which I forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, his Excellency ordered them to proceed by that route, escorted by three companies of the 4th (King's Own) Regiment, one of the 10th Bombay Native Infantry, and one of the 23rd Punjaub Pioneers. I had just arrived at the end of the ridge overlooking the road leading to the entrance of the pass, about one mile distant, when I was joined by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, who directed me to move the 23rd Bengal Pioneers, under Major Chamberlain, to the left, the more effectually to protect the head of the pass. This regiment had no sooner got into position than the guns from Fala and Selassie (two of the three ambas which form the defences of Magdala) opened fire, and large numbers of men were seen streaming down the mountain. One portion of the enemy advanced with great confidence direct on our position, and another towards the pass, to attack the artillery and baggage now coming into sight.

His Excellency having sent me orders to prepare the troops to receive the enemy, I directed Brigadier-General Schneider to cause them to lay down their packs and advance; the 4th (King's Own) Regiment in skirmishing order, supported by the wing of the Belooch Battalion, a small detachment of Royal Engineers, and four companies of Sappers, covered by the Naval Rocket Brigade, which had just come up.

Our troops had to cross a narrow dip in the ground, and the 4th (King's Own) Regiment, while in the act of extending on the other side, came close on the enemy, drove back and dispersed him with great gallantry, killing and wounding a large number. The enemy came on with great courage, little anticipating the rapid effect of the Snider Rifle and dash of our troops.

To the left the enemy pressed close up to the 23rd Bengal Pioneers, under Major Chamberlain, and the advancing Mountain Artillery and baggage under Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, R.A. He was received and driven back by the Pioneers with much loss, and the Mountain and Rocket Batteries on mules, under Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, R.A., and Commander Fellowes, R.N., which the enemy no doubt mistook for baggage, coming into action at this moment supported by a company of the 4th (King's Own) Regiment under Captain Kittoe, and another of the 23rd Bengal Pioneers under Captain Paterson, in skirmishing order, caused great destruction. Lieutenant Sweny, 4th (King's Own) Regiment, the baggage master, lost no time in parking the baggage, and the escort of the two companies 4th (King's Own) Regiment, and one company 10th Native Infantry, coming into action under Captain Roberts and Lieutenant Durrant, 4th (King's Own) Regiment, assisted materially in driving off the enemy. This portion of the enemy being moreover in a hollow on the left of the position of the 4th (King's Own) Regiment, I directed Brigadier-General Schneider to move two companies to the edge of the plateau, thus taking him in flank.

Two of Lieutenant-Colonel Penn's guns, under Lieutenant Taylor, R.A., the Belooches, Royal Engineers, and Sappers, came into action towards evening, and assisted the Naval Rocket Battery to dislodge some sharpshooters who were annoying us from some cover on our right front.

Night coming on, and the enemy having almost disappeared, I withdrew the troops to a position selected by the Commander-in-Chief, where they bivouacked for the night. The 2nd Brigade joined us there towards morning.

I enclose a return of our wounded, all of whom were brought in early, and everything done for them that could possibly be required by Staff-Surgeon Madden, in charge of the field hospital of the 1st Brigade. A number of Abyssinian wounded were also brought in and attended to.

I cannot ascertain with any degree of accuracy the enemy's loss, but as 375 dead, including King Theodore's Commander-in-Chief, were counted on a small part of the field, it is not unreasonable to estimate the killed and wounded at 2,000 men. The Galla Chiefs who had men in the enemy's ranks admit 700 killed.

Brigadier-General Schneider was most energetic in carrying out the orders conveyed to him. He mentions the assistance he received from the officers of his staff, viz., Captain Beville, his Brigade-Major; Captain Hogg, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General; and Lieutenant J. G. McRae, Aide-de-Camp.

The following officers of my staff were most active during the action, and afforded me very valuable assistance: Lieutenant-Colonel Wood, Assisting-Adjutant-General, Major Baigrie, Assisting-Quartermaster-General, and Lieutenant Saunders, 20th Hussars, Aide-de-Camp. My extra Aide-de-Camp, Captain G. Arbuthnot, R.A., whom I had detached in the morning, also rendered good service.

I wish to recommend to the favourable notice of the Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron, Commanding the 4th "King's Own" Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, Commanding the division of Mountain Batteries; Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, Commanding the A 21 Steel Mountain Battery; Commander Fellowes, R.N., Commanding the Naval Rocket Batteries; Major Chamberlain, Commanding 23rd Punjaub Pioneers; Major Beville, Commanding Belooch Battalion; Major Prendergast, V.C., the senior officer, with the Royal Engineers, and companies of Bombay and Madras Sappers and Miners; Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, Commanding detachment 3rd Light Cavalry; Captain Roberts, Commanding 2 companies 4th "King's Own" Regiment, Baggage Guard; Captain Kittoe, 4th (King's Own) Regiment, and Captain Paterson, 23rd Punjaub Pioneers, Commanding escorts to the Artillery; Lieutenant Sweny, 4th (King's Own) Regiment, Baggage-Master, and Staff-Surgeon Madden, in charge of Field Hospital, 1st Brigade.

I forward a sketch of the ground and position of the troops during the action, also a return of officers and men recommended by Major Chamberlain, 23rd Punjaub Pioneers, for distinguished conduct.

I have, &c.

C. STAVELEY, Major-General,
Commanding 1st Division Abyssinian
Field Force.

NOMINAL ROLL of Men Wounded in the Action before Magdala, on the 10th of April, 1868.

Camp near Magdala, April 11, 1868.

Corps.	Regi- mental Number.	Rank and Names.	Character of the Wound.
H.M.'s 4th King's Own -	—	Captain Edward Roberts -	Dangerously ; gun-shot wound of left elbow joint.
" " " -	672	Sergeant Musketry Instructor Michael Creedon.	Dangerously ; gun-shot wound of left leg.
" " " -	333	Private George Kirby -	Dangerously ; fracture of left humerus.
" " " -	1005	Lance-Corp. Richard Odwell -	Severely ; fracture of left foot.
" " " -	502	Private George Sinfield -	Slightly ; fracture of right hand.
" " " -	887	" Michael Unica -	Ditto ditto.
" " " -	—	Lance-Corporal Hugh Evans -	Slightly ; splinter wound of left eye.
23d Punjaub Pioneers -	375	Private Deal Sing -	Dangerous gun-shot wound of left femur.
Pioneer -	—	" Basa Kan -	Severely ; spear wound of neck.
" -	—	" Ran Sing -	Severely ; gun-shot wound of sacrum.
" -	—	" Utter Sing -	Dangerously ; gun-shot wound of left femur.
" -	—	" Jewal Sing -	Severely ; gun-shot wound of face.
" -	879	Bugler Kosal Sing -	Severely ; gun-shot wound of right hand.
" -	—	Private Jeta Sing -	Severely ; gun-shot wound of thigh.
" -	1355	" Sunroop Sing -	Slightly ; contusion of abdomen from bullet.
" -	G	" Gooroom Sing -	Slightly ; gun-shot wound of left foot.
" -	—	" Hura Sing -	Slightly ; spear wound of hand.
" -	—	" Gewan Sing -	Slightly ; spear wound of forehead.
" -	—	" Jowala Sing -	Slightly ; spear wound of thumb.
Bombay Sappers and Miners -	—	C.H. Sumboo -	Slightly ; lost two teeth, upper lip divided by musket ball.

S. CURRIE,
Inspector-General and Principal
Medical Officer.

G. MAHAFFY, M.D.,
Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Service,
First Division, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

RETURN of Killed and Wounded in the Action before Magdala, on the 10th of April 1868.

Camp near Magdala, 11th April 1868.

	Officers wounded.				Men wounded.				Total.
	Killed.	Danger- ously.	Severely.	Slightly.	Killed.	Danger- ously.	Severely.	Slightly.	
4th King's Own Regiment -	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	7
23d Punjaub Pioneers -	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	5	12
Bombay Sappers -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
									20

S. CURRIE,
Inspector-General and Principal
Medical Officer.

G. MAHAFFY, M.D.,
Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Service,
First Division, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Brigadier-General PETRIE, commanding the Royal Artillery, to the Deputy Adjutant-General
Abyssinian Field Force.

SIR,

Camp, near Magdala, April 15, 1868.

I HAVE to request the favour of your laying before his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the following report of the operations of the Artillery during the action before Magdala on the 10th instant, and its capture on the 13th, and which, should it meet with his approval I respectfully request may be forwarded for the information of his Royal Highness the Colonel of the regiment.

At daylight on the morning of the 10th instant, the 1st Brigade 1st Division, to which the A Battery 21st Brigade was attached, left the Dalanta Plain, and after a steep and difficult descent of about five miles, arrived at the bed of the Bashilo River, where the battery and baggage of the brigade, under escort, was halted for a few hours; until the result of a reconnaissance being made by the General of the division was ascertained. Between 1 and 2 o'clock p.m., Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, R.A., who had taken command of the detachment, received orders to proceed towards Magdala by the King's Road, through the Aroge Valley. Soon after 4 o'clock the battery on cresting a small hill within long range from the hill of Falla, was halted by order of Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, for the purpose of closing up. Almost immediately fire was opened by the guns of the enemy on Falla at our troops protecting the road, and a little distance in front of the battery, it was also perceived that the enemy were pouring down the side of the hill with the view of attacking our troops. A large number of them made straight for the battery and baggage immediately in rear of it. The battery at once came into action and opened a most destructive fire, which with that of the infantry in support, effectually checked the efforts of the enemy in that direction. Colonel Milward, who was in command of the troops in this position, has forwarded a separate report through the General Officer Commanding the division.

The 2d Brigade, to which the remainder of the Artillery was attached, had marched some hours after the 1st Brigade, and during the action was halted at the Bashilo, so that Lieutenant-Colonel Penn's Battery alone was engaged.

The 2d Brigade joined during the night, and the division halted on the 11th and 12th. On the morning of the 13th orders were received for an advance on Magdala, and the following positions were assigned to the Artillery. The G Battery, 14th Brigade, under Captain Murray, and two 8-inch mortars, manned by a detachment of No. 5 Battery, 25th Brigade, under Major Hills, V.C., were placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace, and took up a position, with Selassie in front, and Falla on the right; they were intended to fire at long ranges, should the enemy offer opposition to the advance of our column up the hill.

The A Battery, 21st Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Penn's, ascended a short way with the column, and took up a position on a spur running out from Falla, from which it commanded the road at the head of the ascent. The B Battery, 21st Brigade, under Captain Twiss, ascended in rear of the infantry of the leading brigade, both batteries were under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Milward. No opposition was offered to the ascent of the column, and three guns of the B. Battery were at once sent to the top of Selassie by a most difficult path, impracticable even for laden mules. Very few rounds were fired from this position, when it was observed that Lieutenant-Colonel Milward had placed the other three guns in a better position with Lieutenant-Colonel Penn's Battery, which had in the meantime been brought up by order of the Commander-in-Chief at the foot of Selassie, and directly opposite the gate of Magdala, 1,300 yards distant; the three guns were, therefore, moved from the summit, so that Lieutenant-Colonel Milward had the formidable battery of twelve guns and four rocket tubes under his immediate supervision.

On the heights of Falla and Selassie being secured, orders were sent for Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace to bring up the G Battery, 14th Brigade, and the 8-inch mortars; this was done by means of elephants, the ascent being too steep for horse draught. Only a few shots had been fired during the day by the steel guns; in the afternoon, however, about an hour before the assault, fire was opened from all the guns of the different batteries, that of the steel guns was directed against the gateway of Magdala, and its precision and the correct bursting of the shells, both double and common, fully established these small guns as a formidable description of ordnance, and well adapted for the work for which they were originally designed.

The G Battery, 14th Brigade, and 8-inch mortars, did not reach so good a position as that of the Mountain Batteries. On observing that the Armstrong shells were bursting short, I sent orders for the battery to join the others, but was informed, in reply, that owing to the nature of the ground it was impracticable; Captain Murray, however, increased his range, and threw some shells with good effect on the top of the fort. The range was 2,400 yards.

Major Hills threw a few shells only from the 8-inch mortars, as he found his position was not sufficiently advanced to enable his fire to produce any decided effect.

The A and B Batteries kept up a fire over the heads of the troops advancing to the assault, after which all operations of the artillery may be said to have ceased. I beg to inclose statements of the ordnance captured and of the ammunition expended.

As the active operations of the campaign have now been brought to a successful conclusion, it becomes my duty to bring to notice the zeal with which all ranks of the regiment have performed their duty—the difficulties they have encountered in bringing their guns so far into the interior of a mountainous country have been cheerfully and readily overcome.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace has been in command of the G Battery, 14th Brigade, and the 8-inch mortars, since leaving Addigerat, and the rapidity with which he has brought them to the front, and the condition of the elephants on which they have been transported, show the care he has bestowed on the command entrusted to him.

Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, immediately on his arrival, devoted himself to the organization of the two Mountain Batteries, and to his constant supervision much of the success of this new description of ordnance may be attributed. On the 10th and 13th their capabilities were fully developed under

his orders. I have also personally on many occasions been indebted to him for the ready manner he has afforded me the benefit of his professional experience.

Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, with his battery, has from the commencement been with the most advanced troops, and has had to traverse the passes in their most rugged state, but all difficulties have been readily overcome, and the excellent practice of his battery, on the two occasions it has been brought into action, may be ascribed to the energy and care he has bestowed on his command.

Captain Murray, by his untiring exertions, brought his guns on their carriages as far as Antalo. Since then his carriages have had frequently to be taken to pieces, and transported on elephants, involving an immense amount of labour and careful supervision, without which his battery could not have arrived in a state fit for action.

Captain Twiss, with his battery, left the coast at a much later date than the other batteries; and the rapid way he has brought it to the front deserves much praise. Much attention has been paid by him to the instruction of those under him, in the capabilities of the new description of battery intrusted to them.

Major Hills, V.C., has brought up the 8-inch mortars in a very creditable manner. His detachment has been small, and the exertions of all have been necessarily great.

Captain Geary has been my Brigade Major since the formation of the Force. His exertions have at all times been untiring, and his zeal in promoting the efficiency of the arm to which he belongs, whether on the march or before the enemy, has been unceasing.

I am much indebted to Lieutenant Chapman for his services as Aide-de-Camp. On the 13th he accompanied Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, K.C.B., with the column of assault, for the purpose of securing and preventing accidents from the gunpowder in the fort. Both he and Lieutenant Nolan (Lieutenant-Colonel Milward's Adjutant) rendered very important assistance in organizing the Steel Batteries on their arrival from England.

I regret that neither Major Marett nor Major Bogle has had the good fortune to serve in the more active operations of the campaign. The batteries of both do them credit; and to the latter I am much indebted for the manner in which he sent out the detachment of his battery, which has been serving under Major Hills, V.C.

In conclusion, I have only to mention the cheerful and zealous manner in which all ranks of officers and men have performed their duty in what I venture to say has been a severe and trying campaign.

I have, &c.

J. G. PETRIE, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Royal Artillery, Abyssinian
Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel WALLACE, Commanding the 1st Division of Royal Artillery, to the Brigade-Major, Royal Artillery, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

SIR,

Camp Rara Guddy, May 23, 1868.

In accordance with instructions contained in your letter dated 11th instant, I have the honour to report as follows upon the elephant equipment of G-14 and 5th battery, 25th brigade, Royal Artillery.

The four guns and carriages of G-14, 12-powder Breech Loading Armstrong Guns, were distributed in the following manner:—

	Elephants.
For each gun 1 elephant	4
„ carriage 1 do.	4
„ limber and one wheel, 1 do.	4
„ pair of ammunition boxes and one wheel, 1 do.	4
For every three wheels of remaining eight, 1 do.	3
Total	19

One of the latter elephants had but two wheels, the load was made up by the sheers, tackle, &c.

There are no means of weighing the several portions of the carriages, material, &c., but the following weights were given me at Poona Arsenal. I am, however, inclined to believe that the carriage is considerably heavier than noted.

	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	lbs.
Gun	8	1	0	924
Carriage	8	2	14	966
Limber	4	0	2	450
Wheels	2	3	6	314
Ammunition box	2	1	8	255

The cradle probably weighs about 150 lbs. The elephant pads, gualahs, &c., I am informed by Lieutenant Ouchterlony, weigh 500 lbs. each set, consequently the weight of the several loads would be as under:—

Gun, elephant	Gun 924	} lbs.
	Cradle 150	
	Pads, &c., 500	
Carriage, elephant	Carriage 966	} 1616
	Cradle 150	
	Pads, &c., 500	

Limber, elephant	-	-	-	-	-	-	Limber 450	} 1414
							Wheel 314	
							Cradle 150	
							Pads, &c., 500	} 1322
Ammunition boxes, elephant	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 boxes 510	
							Wheel 314	
							Pads, &c., 400	} 1442
Wheels, elephant	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 wheels	
							Pads, &c.	

With regard to the loading, it has been found impossible to use the sheers, it being difficult to get the animals under the fall, and remain quiet there. Moreover, the nature of the soil is seldom such as to afford a good hold for the pickets. The loading has, therefore, been effected as follows:—In the case of the gun, one spar (with the carriage, two) is placed, one end resting on the ground, and the other on the cradle (the elephant being, of course, sitting), the breech screws being removed, handspikes are inserted into the bore at each end, and by these the gun is lifted up along the spar into its bed on the cradle by eight men. To assist in this, a rope is attached to the gun at the trunnions, and passed over the cradle, and manned on the opposite side by three or four men; this tends to keep the load steady, while the men lifting get fresh purchase.

The carriage being heavier, 12 men are required to lift it, the arrangements are the same, except that two skids are used instead of one, up which to slide the load.

The limber is lifted in a similar manner (without skid) by men placed in the cradle, and a wheel laid upon it, and lashed securely.

The ammunition boxes are carried, slung one on each side of the animal, with a wheel laid on top of the pad.

The three wheels are slung one on each side, and one laid on the top.

With regard to the time required for loading, the chief delay is in equipping the elephants with their gear and cradles; once this is done the gun and carriage are loaded in two or three minutes. The other loads take longer, having to be lashed.

MORTARS.

The 8-inch mortar with its bed requires two elephants, the weight being as follows. Those of travelling beds, cradles, pads, &c., being, as in the case of the Armstrong guns, approximately only.

		ewt.	qrs.	lbs.
Mortar	-	8	1	12
Iron (firing) bed	-	7	2	0
Travelling (wooden) do.	-	1	2	0
Cradle	-	2	1	0
The loads would be:				
Mortar elephant.	Mortar	924		
	Travelling bed	168		
	Cradle	252		
	Pads, &c.	500		
			1844	lbs.
Bed elephant.	Iron bed	840		
	Travelling, do.	168		
	Cradle	252		
	Pads	500		
			1760	lbs.

The weight of skin, implement boxes, handspikes, &c., are not known, but they form a good load for an elephant.

The powder has been carried on another elephant, and the shells on mules, four to each mule. The powder could likewise have been so carried.

The same objections to the use of the sheers exist with the mortars as with the guns. The loading has been effected thus:—

Two skids are placed (the elephant being seated) on the cradles, the other ends on the ground; these are kept at such a distance from each other by iron stays as will admit of the truckles of the travelling beds remaining on them; the tackle is attached to the bed; passed over the rollers or cradle, and manned on the opposite side of the animal by some 14 men; four men with handspikes heave the mortar on beds up to the skid, and the tackle being then hauled on, the load is run up into the cradle in a few seconds; to prevent the pad or bed being displaced by running up the load, a third skid is placed on the hauling side against the cradle, and thus check the tendency of the cradle to come over with the haul, and supports the gear, and keeps it in place. The delay in preparing the elephants is the same as with the guns.

The unloading is performed under the same arrangement with both description of pieces, though with the guns it is a much easier process than when loading, and frequently one skid only has been used with the carriage.

For marching in ordinary countries the equipment now used is, I think, all that can be desired; the only alterations I would suggest is, that curled hair should be used, as for saddles, instead of coir, for stuffing the underpad, which should be somewhat thicker than that now used.

The skin of the elephant is so originally tender that it easily becomes galled, and serious galls and sores ensue from the friction as well as the pressure of the heavy weight carried, and which have been on their backs at times from 12 to 20 hours without interruption.

In mountainous country such as that recently travelled over, I would propose that the pads be fitted with breechings and breast-pieces, as the rope now used for this purpose, and which in the one case is pulled tight under the tail, and in the other under the throat, has caused very severe galls and sores to those parts, notwithstanding that a piece of chafing leather was placed between the rope and skin; moreover, in ascending, the strain caused by the weight being thrown back acted very detrimentally on the respiration, almost choking the elephant.

To remedy this defect, probably an arrangement like a horse collar might be applied. Pads are also needed to place under the elephants' knees and elbows, when sitting down to be loaded on rough and stony ground.

I consider that it would be an improvement if the pads were attached, and secured in the same manner as the cradles; that is, by being secured from the sides, under the belly, instead of by rope passing completely round and over the animal. The objection to the latter method is, that if the ropes are found to be loose, either from carelessness on the part of the mahout, or the tricks of the animals, it cannot be adjusted without removing the load; whereas under the other arrangement the ropes can be drawn tight, as in the girths of a saddle.

The cradles, &c., supplied to G.-14 were somewhat slight, having been intended for a 6-pounder battery. The bed for the gun had to be cut, to receive the larger circumference of the 12-pounder gun.

I have, &c.
HILL WALLACE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 1st Division, Royal Artillery,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel MILWARD, Royal Artillery, to Brigadier-General PETRIE, Commanding Royal Artillery, Abyssinian Field Force.

SIR,

Camp Belajo, May 8, 1868.

In compliance with the orders of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, I have the honour to submit the following report on the equipment, condition, and services of the Steel Mountain Batteries attached to the Division of Artillery under my command.

On my arrival at Zoolla on the 4th January, I found that the equipments, which had arrived from England some weeks previously, in excellent condition, had been taken over by the officers commanding the 3d and 5th Batteries, 21st Brigade, and that some progress had been made towards fitting the pack saddles and mounting the batteries on mules, which had been supplied from those in charge of the Transport Train. I attribute the rapid progress made in the fitting out of these batteries, in a great degree, to the exertions of Lieutenants Nolan and Chapman, and the few non-commissioned officers under their command. These officers, with such small assistance as the exigencies of the service could afford at that most difficult period of the campaign, had disembarked, unpacked, and arranged the whole of the equipments of two batteries; they had procured and taken charge of 200 mules, and on the arrival of the batteries from Bombay, little was left to the Commanding Officers but to make the final arrangements to complete their batteries in a condition to take the field.

The mules supplied were all taken from those lately arrived from Suez,—for the most part Spanish. The manner in which these animals have done their work proves that they were of good quality, and only required constant care, good feeding, and careful packing, to ensure their thorough efficiency. I may, however, take this opportunity to observe, that the very large Spanish mules do not keep their condition, or carry their loads as well as those of moderate size. I have invariably observed that a few days of short rations threw them out of condition, which they did not recover as rapidly as could be desired.

Being of opinion that the scale of equipment laid down in the printed list supplied with the batteries was quite insufficient, I obtained your permission to draw up a proposal for an increase in the number of mules and the quantity of ammunition to be carried with each battery. I accordingly submitted the following as a sufficient scale of equipment to take into the field, and having received in due course the approval of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, it has been adopted throughout the campaign.

MULES.

Guns and Carriages.	Ammunition and Rockets.	Spare Carriage.	Wheels.	Forge.	Artificers' Tools.	Material for Repairs.	Mounted N. C. O's. and Trumpeters.	Spare.	Total.
18	61	1	2	1	1	6	3	20	113

AMMUNITION.

Projectiles.	In Ammunition Boxes.	In Reserve Boxes.	Total.
Common shell	168	Nil.	168
Shrapnell shell	144	32	176
Double shell	120	48	168
Case shot	72	20	92
Rockets	72	80	152

The loads of ammunition were found to be too heavy to be carried conveniently; and it was found desirable to remove one shell from each box. It was also found necessary to reduce the weight of the

rocket-cases, by removing four from each, and to reduce the carriage-load by the weight of the wheels, which were placed on a separate mule. The scale of entrenching tools was quite inadequate for the probable requirements; and sufficient provision had not been made for the carriage of small articles, not easily enumerated, but none the less necessary in the equipment of a battery. Boxes were made for the purpose, which were fitted to be carried on the top of certain loads, and arrangements were made to carry a sufficient supply of entrenching tools. These altogether necessitated a larger number of mules than was originally contemplated; and with the somewhat large proportion of spare animals necessary to meet the requirements of so peculiar a campaign, brought up the total number to 113.

In order to familiarize officers and men with the guns and ammunition entrusted to them, practice to a small extent was carried on at Zoolla; during which I found that firing with double shell had a tendency to shake the wheels to an extent which might be found inconvenient in actual service. I accordingly constructed wooden mortar beds, which were found to answer the purpose admirably. These were hastily constructed, and were not of the best materials or dimensions; but I would recommend that in all future batteries of 7-pounder rifled guns, properly constructed carriages of this nature should form part of the equipment.

The practice carried on at Zoolla was sufficient to show the officers and men that the guns were good and effective beyond what they could have anticipated; they applied themselves to mastering the details of drill and the movements of the batteries with the utmost zeal and with the best results. I cannot give too much praise to officers and men of garrison batteries, quite unaccustomed to the work, for the rapid progress made, and for the degree of efficiency obtained.

The strength of the batteries being quite insufficient, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, and 25 privates of the 4th (King's Own) Regiment were attached to each battery; these men have since acted as drivers, and have been found most useful and efficient.

After careful consideration, I decided on the following distribution of the mules; this arrangement has been maintained throughout, and has been found to work well:—

Subdivision.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.	Remarks.
Gun - - -	1	1	1	1	1	1	A small proportion of spare material for artificers will be carried in the mail boxes on the wheel mules.
Carriage - - -	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Wheels - - -	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Ammunition - - -	4	4	4	4	4	4	
D. shell - - -	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Rockets - - -	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Miscellaneous stores -		Spare Wheels.	Spare Carriage.	Spare Cradle, &c.	Spare Wheels.	Forge.	
	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	10	10	10	10	10	10	

RESERVE.

15 mules, 8 double shell each.

5 „ 16 rockets „
 2 „ 16 Shrapnel „
 1 „ 20 case.
 5 „ Spare material.
 1 „ Powder in cases.
 1 „ Forges, tubes, &c.
 1 „ Veterinary stores.

The mules for the reserve will be furnished in equal proportions by the divisions. The reserve will be packed separately under the Conductor of Stores. The mules will be picketed with their divisions.

On the 27th January, the A Battery, under Lieutenant-Colonel Penn, marched from Zoolla, reaching Senafé on the 31st January, Addigerat on the 5th February, and Antalo on the 20th February. The excellent manner in which the march was so far completed left nothing to be desired. Antalo was reached without a casualty. No load was even displaced on the road—there were no galls, no sore backs, no sickness. From Addigerat to Antalo the battery was attached to the advanced brigade, the road always very hilly and rough had been only partially made in many places, and could only have been traversed with great difficulty by animals less perfectly laden. No difficulty however was found which was not overcome by the energy and intelligence of officers and men.

At Antalo, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief having expressed a desire that a longer range might if possible be obtained with the double shell, I caused a trial to be made with 4 oz. cartridges, and with them I obtained a range of 1,450 yards, without apparent distress to gun or carriage. I therefore made up a few of these cartridges, which were afterwards used with good effect.

Wood tangent scales were also made for use instead of the quadrant when firing at high angles. These were only roughly constructed by the battery artificers, but they were found useful, and I would recommend their adoption in all future equipments.

Marching from Antalo on the 12th March, the A Battery accompanied the advance throughout,—the almost insuperable difficulties of the road were surmounted without accident or loss—the great ravines of the Tacassie, the Jiddah, and the Bashilo, were crossed without casualty; that of the Jiddah

with the advanced guard of the army, over a track which might well have been considered impassable, but the only damage was the loss of a foresight broken in the fall of a gun, with the mule which carried it, over a cliff.

Arriving before Magdala on the 10th April, this battery found itself in action with the enemy. On this occasion 19 rounds per gun were fired, at ranges varying from 450 to 1,800 yards, with Shrapnel and common shell; the practice was excellent, and caused heavy loss to the enemy. The fuzes acted well, the ranges were changed with ease, and the success in changes of position of the battery were made with the greatest ease and rapidity. I observed with one gun a slight tendency, after firing a few rounds rapidly, to jamming of the shell in the bore; this however was at once removed by a damp sponge, and I would suggest that these should be used invariably, when rapid firing is considered necessary.

The B Battery, under command of Captain Twiss, did not leave Zoolla until the end of February, and in the meantime the mules had been almost constantly engaged in heavy transport duty between Zoolla and Senafe. Leaving at so late a date, the battery was called upon to march rapidly to the front, and it reached Antalo without a halt—from Antalo to the front the difficult marching did not afford any opportunity for recruiting, and the mules are not in such high condition, or so fine in appearance as those of A Battery; they have, however, carried their loads well, and no accident involving loss of stores has occurred. B Battery did not cross the Bashilo until the afternoon of the 10th April, and was not, therefore, engaged on that day, but having been brought to the front on the following morning, I had the honour of commanding both batteries together on the 13th April, at the capture of the Fortress of Magdala. On this occasion eighteen to twenty rounds per gun were fired at ranges from 1,300 to 1,500 yards, common and double shell only being used; 15 rounds of the latter were fired with 4-oz. charges, at a range of 1,400 yards, and carried well to that distance; the common shell were used in shelling the defences of the Gate of Magdala, and the precision of the fire could not be excelled. The shells were observed to burst regularly and without failure. No difficulty was experienced in loading, or in boxing and fixing the fuzes; and that the intended effect was produced was manifest from the fact that the defenders of the gate were observed to retreat in large numbers some time before the advance of the assaulting party was ordered.

The storming party having secured an entrance, one battery was advanced, and at my suggestions one gun, with a small supply of ammunition, was carried by the gunners up the steep ascent, through the narrow entrance, and brought into action within the fort. No further occasion for its services arose, but I would venture to point to this service as one of vast utility in the future of these mountain guns. It will be a rare occasion when the ascent to a breach will offer greater difficulties than those of the ascent to the Gate of Magdala.

On the 10th and 13th April, 25 Hales' Rockets were fired; they acted well, and I consider them in all respects good and efficient.

Having reached Ashangi, on the return march, I obtained the permission of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to fire a few rounds over the lake, with a view to observe the action of the fuzes in ricochet, and to afford foreign officers and others an opportunity of witnessing the effect of the bursting of the different natures of shells.

It is with much gratification I have to report that the result was eminently satisfactory, confirming my opinion as to the perfect serviceability of the fuzes, establishing the fact that they are not extinguished on striking the water, and demonstrating what a formidable projectile can be thrown from a miniature piece of ordnance, with an insignificant charge of powder.

In conclusion, I beg to record my opinion, that the value of the 7-pounder steel mountain guns, with their projectiles and equipments, is successfully established; that in the hands of good gunners, with batteries of sufficient strength, and mules in good condition, they are capable of carrying into any country which can be traversed by an army an artillery fire far more effective than any which has been hitherto attained in mountain warfare.

I have, &c.

T. W. MILWARD, Lieut.-Col.,
Royal Artillery.

Enclosure 5 in No. 1.

TRANSLATION of a letter from Meer Akbar Alee, Intelligence Department, reporting his proceedings during a mission to Masteeat, Queen of the Wollo Gallas, to whom he had been deputed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for the purpose of encouraging Her people to oppose the late Emperor Theodorus in the event of the latter attempting to flee from Magdalla.

On the 8th of April I left His Excellency's camp on Dalanta, accompanied only by a few Galla guides, and reached, on the evening of the 9th, the Galla hamlet of Goshmaida. The Gallas whom I met seemed inspired with a profound dread of Theodorus. Their confusion was increased by their uncertainty as to the objects of the British Commander in approaching Magdalla with his army. At the same time they had a cordial hatred of Theodore, who had inflicted both on themselves and on the Mahommedan religion, which they profess, innumerable outrages. On my conveying to them His Excellency's message that he was about to attack Magdalla, and had no other enemies in all Abyssinia than Theodorus, their courage revived, and numbers of the people returned to their homes.

I was treated by all classes with the utmost respect and hospitality.

Masteeat had left her residence on the Hill of Lugod, which is about five miles from Magdalla, on the Talanta side of the Bashilo. The reason assigned was the necessity of protecting certain remote villages, but I believe the true cause was that she feared the British army. The news of my coming and of my speeches soon reached her. On the 13th instant she herself and her young son Emam Ahmad, in whose name she reigns over the people, met me near Lugod. I gave her the presents His Excellency had entrusted me with for the purpose. She was greatly pleased that His Excellency had sent one of her own religion, to assure her of his own and his country's friendly feeling towards her people.

Before her own arrival I had, however, secured the confidence of the Gallas, and had induced their chiefs to invest Magdalla on the Kafirbar side, for the purpose of preventing Theodore's escape. Everything had been done by the chiefs in accordance with my directions. After Masteeat herself arrived near Magdalla, the number of armed Gallas who were then available for the work of watching the outlets from the fortress was not less than 8,000. These were under their own chiefs, and I occupied myself night and day, while the British army was operating against Magdalla, in going from post to post of the Gallas, seeing that strict watch was preserved.

Every human being that attempted during that time to leave Magdalla on the Kafirbar side was either driven back by the surrounding Gallas, or else fell into the hands of the latter, who brought him to me.

When Theodorus himself left the fortress with a few followers on the morning of the day on which it was stormed, I believe the reason he retraced his course into Magdalla, and abandoned his purpose of trying to escape, was because he saw the large numbers of Gallas who were watching for him from the adjoining mountain sides.

The Gallas never wavered in their obedience to my instructions, except for a few minutes when news was brought us that Theodore, after his defeat at Arogee, had sent Mr. Flad to the British camp to sue for peace. I assured the Gallas that the British would never make peace with him. They then recovered their original zeal in co-operating with me to prevent Theodore's escape.

Having to-day received official intimation of the death of Theodorus, and His Excellency's orders for my return to head-quarters, I have come into camp accordingly.

I shall prepare hereafter a fuller account of my proceedings and observations while employed on the above mission.

Camp near Magdalla, 16th April 1868.

MEER AKBAR ALEE.

Enclosure 6 in No. 1.

REPORT on Camp Equipage and Sick Carriage by Captain T. J. Holland, Assistant Quartermaster General Army, Head quarters, Abyssinian Field Force.

A full supply of camp equipage and sick carriage was sent from India to meet the requirements of this force.

The number and description of tents despatched were as follows :

Tents	European soldier, double poled	-	-	-	-	-	-	155
"	European soldier, single poled	-	-	-	-	-	-	312
"	Staff-Serjeants	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
"	European hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
"	Native soldiers, double poled	-	-	-	-	-	-	863
"	Native soldiers, single poled	-	-	-	-	-	-	329
"	English circular, double fly	-	-	-	-	-	-	323
"	English circular, single fly	-	-	-	-	-	-	676
"	Hospital marquees	-	-	-	-	-	-	50

The sick carriage was as undermentioned :

Doolies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	401
Ambulances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Kujawahs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	247
Camel saddles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	175
Mule pads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	144
Stretchers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128

In addition to these eight swing cots (purchased from the shipping) 128 dandies, and 2,129 McGuire's hammocks were landed at Zoolla, for the conveyance of the sick and wounded.

Tents of the following description were not taken by the troops, on the march inland:

- Tents European soldier, double poled.
- " European soldier, single poled.
- " Staff-Serjeants.
- " European hospital.
- " Hospital marquees.

None of these tents are suitable for mule carriage and though comfortable and affording every protection from the sun on the plains were not of any value to this Force on its march on the highlands of Abyssinia.

A few of the following description of tents, were taken by the Force as far Antalo:

- Tents, Native soldiers, double poled.
- " Native soldiers, single poled.

The English circular double fly tents were taken as far as Lat. The English circular single fly was the only description of tent the army was able to take as far as Magdala.

Description of Tents.

The European soldiers' double poled tent is large and commodious, weighs 631 lbs., has two flies, each three cloths thick, is 22 feet long by 16 feet broad, and accommodates with facility 16 men giving each soldier the space considered necessary by the Sanitary Commission in the Bombay Presidency.

The great objection to this tent on active service is its weight, especially when wet, the cloths of which it is constructed being of very soft material and liable to absorb a large quantity of moisture, In rainy weather, moreover, the pitch of the outer fly is insufficient to prevent leakage.

The European soldiers' single-poled tent is constructed of the same material as the one above mentioned, it affords good protection from the sun, weighs 525 lbs., has two flies, is 15 feet square and accommodates with facility 10 men, giving each soldier the space considered advisable by the Sanitary Commission, Bombay.

This tent is more watertight than the doubled-poled tent, on account of the outer fly having a higher and better pitch.

It is also more suited for service than the double-poled tent in consequence of its being lighter and easier to pitch. It is not, however, sufficiently light for mule carriage, and has the disadvantage of absorbing moisture to a great extent.

The Staff-Serjeants' tent is smaller but somewhat similar in shape to the European soldiers' single poled. It weighs 361 lbs., has a superficial area of 144 square feet, is constructed solely for the accommodation of Staff-Serjeants in India, and is not suited for mule carriage.

The European hospital tent is similar in shape to the tent European soldier, double poled, but is fitted with two walls or "konnats," leaving a passage of about 4 feet broad all round the tent under the outer fly.

This tent is generally used for hospital purposes only.

It weighs 1,440 lbs., is 27 feet long by 14 feet broad, and affords accommodation for 12 patients.

It has all the disadvantages in material of the tents above mentioned, and is moreover too heavy for ordinary camel or mule carriage. It forms, however, a most comfortable camp hospital for sick, affording every protection from the sun and rain.

The Native soldiers' double-poled tent is made of the same material as other Indian tents, but consists of only one fly, is of an oval shape, 24 feet long by 19 feet broad, 344 lbs. in weight, and is calculated to accommodate 30 Native soldiers in India.

It is not suitable for mule carriage.

The Native soldiers' single-poled tent is a small circular tent, made of the same material as the above-mentioned tent. It is 12 feet in diameter, 176 lbs. in weight, and calculated to accommodate 13 men.

Both these tents are used exclusively for the accommodation of Native troops in India.

It is sufficiently light to be carried by a mule, but is not a useful tent on service, being very hot, and giving very little space for men living in it.

Its weight also is considerably increased by heavy dew or rain.

The English circular double-fly tent weighs 112 lbs., and is made of stout linen. It is 13 feet in diameter, and has proved throughout this campaign by far the best tent for such service as that on which this army has been employed. It keeps out the rays of the sun, and the ventilators (causing a free current of air) render the tent during the day comparatively cool.

This tent has been used only by Officers and for hospital purposes, but it is admirably suited for the accommodation of British soldiers, and would probably answer well for the cold season in India. It is light, easily carried, and can be pitched with great facility by two men.

Both inner and outer fly being made of linen, it does not absorb moisture to the extent Indian tents do.

It is capable of accommodating 10 or 12 British soldiers; it is not, however, suitable for standing camps on the plains in a hot climate. It might be improved by having another doorway cut opposite to the present entrance.

The entrances to the tent should be made so as to fasten from the inside and not the outside, in order that the inmates may be able to let themselves out when they require, which at present is not possible.

The "Tent English circular single fly" has been used more than any other during this campaign. It has answered all our requirements admirably, weighing only 66 lbs., absorbing very little moisture (and accommodating as it did from Lat to Magdalla and back again 12 officers or 20 soldiers) it has been almost useful tent for all purposes.

Its diameter is 12 feet. Owing to this tent having only one fly it is not capable of keeping out the strong rays of the sun, and though admirably adapted for service on the highlands of Abyssinia, cannot be considered a suitable tent for European soldiers at any season on the plains of India.

The hospital marquee is 492 lbs. in weight, and made of stout linen; it has two flies and a wall all round. It is not, however, suited to mule carriage, and has not been used at all in the highlands of Abyssinia.

Sick Carriage.

The dooley is very much used in India for the carriage of sick; it weighs 123 lbs. It is a description of cot made of teak, with cane bottom and short legs, suspended from a bamboo pole by a light iron framework, which is covered with waterproof canvas.

It is carried usually in India by six bearers.

Its great weight and bulk, however, render it unfit for service in a hilly country without roads.

During the passage of the Bashilo and Jidha rivers it was found that 12 bearers could not carry a dooley at a greater rate of speed than one mile an hour, and along the steep ascents and descents the army has had to travel, doolies constantly delayed the baggage animals.

Doolies might be improved if constructed entirely of light ironwork, instead of heavy teak. They need not be made so high, or of such great breadth as at present; their legs should not exceed from 2 to 3 inches in length. Over a level country the dooley is an admirable means of sick carriage.

The ambulances brought to this country were constructed to be drawn by bullocks; they are heavy and unfit for draught except on made roads; they have been very little used in this campaign, and then only between Koomaylee and Zoolla.

Light ambulances drawn by mules, similar to those used by the American and Prussian armies, might have been of some service on the roads between Zoolla and Addigerut.

A dandy consists of a light, wooden framework with a cane bottom, with two pieces of iron at either end, supporting the bamboo pole. It weighs 54 lbs., has nearly all the advantages of a dooley, and its portability renders it more suitable over bad roads in a hilly country. A temporary cover can be made by fastening a blanket across the pole.

A few swing cots purchased from the shipping in Annesley Bay were used by the force. A swing cot is simply a framework of light wood covered with canvas, the whole being supported by a bamboo pole, and weighing altogether 45 lbs.

Swing cots are well adapted for carrying men who may be suffering from slight ailments or injuries, but are not suitable as sleeping cots, and are uncomfortable for patients when placed on the ground (especially in wet weather) as it is occasionally necessary to rest the bearers on the line of march. They have the advantage, however, of being light, and require only four bearers each.

Several hammocks were sent with the force, which, lashed on bamboos, have been used for the conveyance of sick on the line of March. They weigh only 24 lbs. each.

They have proved very useful for carrying men who fall out on the level of march from fatigue or temporary ailments, but they are not adapted for wounded men or for patients suffering from serious illness.

The hammock has the same disadvantage as the swing cot, in that it cannot be placed on the ground in wet weather. If made longer and wider, and fitted inside with a light wooden frame, so as to prevent the patient from being doubled up (which he is very liable now to be, however well the hammock may be slung to the pole) it would be a better means of conveyance for the sick. Sketches of the above-mentioned sick carriage are attached.

A stretcher weighs 17 lbs. consists of a piece of canvas of about 7 feet by 2 feet, slung between two slight bamboos. Stretchers are useful for conveying wounded men off a battle field, but are not of much use on the line of march.

Iron kujawahs and cocolet kjuwahs weigh respectively 119 and 181 lbs. each; they are used for the conveyance of two sick men on each camel.

They have only been used on the return march of the army from Senafe to Zoolla, and have not been sufficiently tested to enable me to frame a special report on them.

The kujawah in a camel country is a good means of conveyance for sick men. No protection, however, is afforded the patient from sun or rain while travelling in a kujawah.

Double-seated camel saddles weigh 133 lbs., and afford carriage for two men sitting astride on each camel. These saddles are fitted with good backs, and in a camel country constitute a very suitable means of conveyance for men suffering from fatigue or slight ailments, and who are able to sit up.

Mule pads weigh 35 lbs. each; they have been very little used in this campaign, the Otago saddle having been generally available for the conveyance of men who fall out on the line of march.

T. J. HOLLAND, Captain,
Zoolla, 1st June 1868. Assistant Quartermaster-General, Army Head-quarters.

REMARKS by the Commander-in-Chief on this Report.

I consider that the hospital marquee might be adapted for the mule carriage: it has not had a trial, but should be tried and reported on at Bombay.

The double-seated camel saddles were used to carry the sick from Antalo to Koomaylee; they answered admirably.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Steam ship "Ferooz," Gulph of Suez, Commanding Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.
17th June 1868.

Enclosure 7 in No. 1.

REPORT by Captain T. J. HOLLAND, Assistant Quartermaster-General, A. E. F., on the different descriptions of mule saddles and pads used by the Abyssinian Field Force during the march to and from Magdala.

The following saddles and pads have been used by the Force for mules:

Saddles.

The Otago pattern.
The Macmahon pattern.
The Hungarian pattern.

Pads.

Punjab pattern.
Bombay Ordnance pattern.
Bombay Commissariat pattern.
Egyptian pattern.
Persian pattern.

This saddle weighs 43 lbs., and is admirably adapted for general pack purposes, when used by properly instructed muleteers. It however requires to be carefully fitted on the animal, and every attention given to adjusting the stuffing of the pads, so as to prevent any chance of galling.

The Otago saddles sent to Abyssinia have, as a rule, been too large for the mules in use with the Force. The breeching, breastplates, buckles, and straps might be reduced and simplified. Muleteers, unless trained and accustomed to these saddles, are apt to make mistakes in fastening the straps, &c.

With very slight modifications, and in proper hands, these saddles ought not to gall when fitted on the large Spanish mules, but the smaller animals with the force, as well as those in poor condition, have been frequently laid up with sore shoulders and hips, on account of these saddles being too large for them.

Three sizes of Otago saddles have been sent to Abyssinia, of which those of the smallest pattern have answered best, and saddles of a still smaller pattern would probably answer better for Indian mules.

From the experience we have had the following alterations would appear advisable in the Otago saddle:

1. Strong loops of leather might with advantage be substituted for the hooks from which the loads are suspended and fastened; these loops should be 2 inches higher on the tree of the saddle on each side than the hooks now are, so as to distribute the weight of the load more on the animal's back and less on his sides. Nothing fatigues and distresses a mule more than a badly packed and loosely hung load, knocking against his flanks and legs.

2. A netting, or saleeta, to be furnished to 25 out of every 100 saddles, to carry miscellaneous articles, small packages, &c.

3. Breeching and breastplates to be made more simple, buckles and straps reduced in number, and all constructed so as to fit any sized animal, the present breastplate and breeching are too long for even the largest mules we have had, and in most cases cannot be sufficiently shortened.

4. That part of the pad of the saddle which rests on the animal's shoulder to be cut out so as to lessen the chance of galling, and give the shoulders fair play to work clear of the pads. The same arrangement might with advantage be made in the hinder part, to prevent the hips from being rubbed. The stuffing of the pad should also be of softer material, and should project on all sides beyond the leather, the edges of which are liable to turn in, harden and injure the mule.

5. A horse blanket carefully fitted in the fork of each saddle is required to protect the mule from the cold at night, but is not required in saddles provided with saleetas, as the saleetas can be used as horse-cloths.

The Otago saddles sent to Abyssinia have been very well made, of the best material, and would, with the modifications above suggested, be one of the best description of pack-saddles for mules.

For riding purposes this saddle is not very well suited; the hooks on it are very much in the way, and in the event of a fall are liable to catch the rider's clothes, or as has occasionally happened in this camp, cause a bad wound in the leg.

MacMahon saddle. This saddle weighs 66 lbs. with its waterproof sheet, or 56 lbs. without the sheet. It has many of the advantages of the Otago.

Its weight, however is so considerable that it renders it a most inconvenient description of pack saddle, especially where, in order to economize the number of mules it is a matter of great importance to place as much baggage on each as the mule can carry with facility.

A Hungarian saddle brought to Zoolla by Count Kudolitz, one of the Austrian officers attached to this Force, has also been tested on the march to and from Magdala. It is a simple light framework of wood and iron, weighing 17 lbs only, and is placed on a folded horse-cloth on the back of the mule. It has the advantage of being very light, and so constructed as not to be likely to cause galls.

It is perhaps as good a description of pack-saddle as there is for carrying two boxes of an equal weight, but is not suited for bundles or packages.

This is the ordinary Punjab pad, is covered with leather, and weighs 34 lbs., it is in two pieces with bands over the back to connect the two portions together. The breeching and breastplates are of broad leather.

This pad has been found by long experience to be very serviceable, and does not generally gall mules. In a mountainous country, however, like Abyssinia, it has not answered well, as there are no means to prevent loads slipping backwards or forwards when going up or down hill.

This defect might be remedied by having bamboos lashed on each side, or by passing straps through eyelet holes in the upper part of the pad.

The Punjab pad is simple and light in construction. Muleteers soon learn how to fasten it on, and it has on the whole caused less galls than any other pad or saddle in use with the force. I would recommend it for use all over India, as the lightest, most serviceable, and most economical pad obtainable.

The following alterations are, however, suggested:—

1. The felt pads which rest on the mules back to be covered with some soft cloth.
2. As it is impossible that the bands connecting the two pads can be made strong enough for very rough work, it would be advisable to join the pads strongly together by one band, running the whole length of the saddle.
3. Eyelet holes to be added to the front and back part of the pad, with a view of preventing the loads from slipping; a strong piece of double rope sewn on to the sides of the saddle, with loops left at either end, would answer all requirements.

Bombay Ordnance pad.

This pad is covered with strong sacking, and weighs 26 lbs. It has not proved at all a good pad, it is too thin to be any protection to the animal's sides or back, and totally unsuited for hard loads, such as shot and shell, or other articles that press on one spot. Long marches try it greatly, and more sores and galls have been caused in this campaign by this pad than by any other.

Bombay Commissariat pad.

This pad is also covered with sacking, weighs 40 lbs., and is commendable for its simplicity, durability, and the protection it affords to the animal's back, but is objectionable on account of its great weight.

It is, moreover, clumsy and unwieldy, and gets very heavy when saturated with rain. It, however, has not been found to cause many sore backs in this campaign. The Bombay Commissariat pads sent to this country have as a rule been badly made, the breeching, breastplates, and girths, deficient in strength, the saddle generally requiring constant repair.

Persian pad.

This pad is covered with Persian hair sacking; it is thick and rather clumsy, but it has not been found to gall animals much, and weighs 25 lbs.

The flap of carpet cloth attached to this pad, and which covers the loins and hind quarters of the mules, effectually protecting them from the wet and cold at night, is of great advantage. The Persian pads sent to this country have generally been made of very flimsy material, and have not stood the constant wear and tear they have had.

Egyptian pad.

This is a high, hard, uncomfortable, and heavy pad, quite unsuited to the requirements of a campaign. It was found necessary at the commencement of the operations in this country to condemn all the Egyptian pads sent to Zoolla.

From the experience we have had in this campaign, the Otago has proved the most serviceable of all mule saddles, and the Punjab pad the best pad.

I believe that a pad is better than a saddle as a general rule for pack purposes, being more easily repairable, better capable of being fitted to mules of any size, carried with greater facility to the post from which it is to be used, lighter in weight, and is simpler and far more economical in construction; it also affords protection to the mule at night, which the saddle does not.

When saddles get out of order they are difficult to repair, the leather which covers them is liable soon to get damaged when in the hands of muleteers, who tired with their long marches content themselves with simply taking them off their animals, and never give any attention to keeping them in good order. It would, however, probably be advisable in a mule train for service in a mountainous country like Abyssinia to have a proportion of saddles as well as pads.

Photograph from sketches of each description of pack saddles and pad are attached.

J. T. HOLLAND, Captain,
Assistant Quarter-Master General.

Zoolla, 1st June 1868.

Enclosure 8 in No. 1.

Major-General George Malcolm, C.B., Commanding 2nd Division Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, to the Deputy Adjutant-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

SIR,

Camp Ashangi, May 5, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to request that you will be so good as to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the efficient assistance I have received from Major George Bray, Assistant Adjutant-General, and Captain Watts, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General in commanding the 2nd division Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, and in preserving the line of communication from Senafé to Antalo, and latterly to Ashangi.

2. The march of regiments, detachments, and convoys passing in constant succession through this division to the front required, on the part of these Officers, most careful attention and much trouble from the difficulties of transport, and also in enforcing the stringent orders of the Commander-in-Chief, with regard to the reduction of followers, camp equipage, and carriage. I believe that their exertions materially assisted the general arrangements. I have also to thank them for the assistance in the disposition of the various posts which were necessary to secure our communications.

3. I am much indebted to Brigadier-General Collins, Commanding at Antalo, and to Brigadier-General Stewart, Commanding at Senafé, and Lieutenant-Colonel Little, Commanding at Addigerat, for their able support in all matters. It is difficult to enumerate the many subjects which had to engage their attention in collecting and forwarding supplies, pushing on troops, maintaining order and security

along the road, and the more delicate arrangements for native carriers, on whom the army was so very dependent for its food. I could in many cases only give general instructions, and much was left to their judgment and discretion. The commands of Brigadier-General Collings were especially important. Before my arrival on the highlands he commanded at Senafé; and at Addigerat and Antalo he was required, in a great measure, to act on his own responsibility.

4. The garrisons of Senafé, Addigerat, and Antalo have been, until the last two months, chiefly composed of regiments and detachments which marched to the front; during their stay in the division the conduct of all was good. Among the few complaints made by the natives, I am not aware that any have been brought home to either British or Native soldiers. The 25th Regiment Native Light Infantry, under Major Fairbrother, and the wing of the 3rd Native Infantry, under Captain Strutt, have had heavy convoy duty, which they have performed most cheerfully and satisfactorily. The former regiment also improved the road from Addigerat to Facado and completed the entrenchments at the former station. I do not mention the heavy duties of the various companies of sappers, and of the detachment of the 21st Bombay Native Infantry, under Lieutenant Beck, of the 10th Native Infantry, under Major Pierce, of the 33rd Foot, under Captain Johnstone, all of which are known to His Excellency.

There have been few instances of collision between soldiers of escorts and natives attempting to plunder, in all of which the troops and officers have shewn great forbearance and judgment.

The postal duty from Senafé to Antalo has been very satisfactorily performed by the sowars of the 10th Lancers and 12th Cavalry, whose conduct at the posts along the line of communication has been most exemplary.

I have especially to thank Major Thacker, Assistant-Commissary-General at Senafé, for his able management of the native carriage, and his general arrangements along the line of communication.

I am not less indebted to Major Leven, Assistant-Commissary-General, first at Addigerat and afterwards at Antalo. The difficulties which these officers had to encounter in pressing on supplies have been great, and they have been marked with success against many obstacles.

Captain Newport, Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General, who lately came to Addigerat, has conducted his duties with great assiduity.

I have also to acknowledge the services of Colonel Brazier, C.B., and Major Roome, of the Intelligence Department, and their valuable assistance in arranging for the native carriage, maintaining friendly intercourse with the chiefs and people of the country, and their endeavours to restore confidence whenever interrupted through misunderstanding. Major Roome's services in discovering and checking marauders in the Sooroo Pass is known to His Excellency, and in this as in other instances he has well maintained his character for good judgment and ready action.

My thanks are due to the Officers of the Land Transport Train, Lieutenant Seton, R.A., and Capt. Ellis, R.A., at Addigerat, to Captain Annesley, at Senafé, and to Captain Seton, at Antalo, and to all Officers of that department for their unwearied exertions.

8. Surgeons-Major Deeble and Maitland satisfactorily superintended the medical arrangements and gave every assistance in sanitary matters, which, at Senafé and Addigerat, were carefully superintended by Assistant-Surgeons Jay and Greenhill, R.A.

9. Veterinary Surgeons Kettle, Wilson, and Blake have efficiently superintended the care of the sick mules at Facado and in the neighbourhood of Senafé and Antalo. Mr. Kettle had in the absence of other Officers several times charge of the Facado station, and I have had reason to observe his careful arrangement of his sick mules. Mr. Wilson's conduct at Goose Plain, when a number of Arab muleteers deserted the mules in a body, shewed decision and judgment.

10. The posts up to Ashangi have been lately placed under my orders, and I would beg to bring to the Commander-in-Chief's notice the good services of Major Armstrong, commanding at Ashangi, who, with a small force at his disposal has, with much exertion, maintained order, and the arrangements for bringing in supplies, as also for native carriage to the front—all of which were, from evil disposed persons, in danger of interruption.

11. I was much pleased with the conduct of Lieutenant Wilson, Madras Army, attached to the 10th Native Infantry, in marching a party of his men from Attila to the Belago Pass at very short notice; his presence there, and his attention to his duty, have effectually stopped the annoyances to stragglers and the postal sowars upon that part of the road.

12. I would also mention Captain Callwell, Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General at Attila, who has had a most difficult duty to perform, and has had much trouble in encouraging the native carriage. If sufficient grain and forage have not been collected at Attila, Belago, and Messeek for the return army, it must be attributed to the disturbed state of the country, and not to want of exertion on the part of Captain Callwell.

13. The native officers commanding at the different posts have generally shown much discretion in conducting their duties, and in purchasing grain and forage. The jealousies of the chiefs in the matter of native carriage have latterly given much trouble in this respect. I would mention the name of Sabedar Bhica, 3rd Regiment Native Infantry, who was promptly sent, and as promptly marched, with his company from Ashangi to Mukkum, where his arrangements for good order and security have been most successfully exerted. Russoldar Hurry Sing, of 12th Bengal Cavalry, at Agoola, was placed in a most difficult position at one time; his good arrangements and cool forbearance had a most salutary effect.

14. Our arrangements have been materially assisted by the telegraph, and the unwearied exertions of Captain St. John, R.E., and his subordinates, in completing and repairing the line; we owe them our best thanks.

15. I must not omit to mention Mr. Murchawarké, His Highness Prince Kussa's Envoy, to whom I am much obliged for his assistance in maintaining friendly relations between us and the chiefs, and in providing native carriage, and doing his utmost to rectify all misunderstandings.

16. I would also beg to make favourable mention of my Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Heath, 33rd Foot, who has given me assistance in many ways, and is a promising young officer.

I must, in conclusion apologise for the length of this report, but the duties performed in this division have been in great part those of departments and detached officers. Their careful attention and zealous co-operation was essentially necessary and has been well given. I have called for reports from Brigadier-Generals and Lieut.-Colonel Little, as to the duties performed by the officers under their respective command, which on receipt I shall forward for submission to his Excellency. Our duties were but careful, and I may say anxious attention to assist the troops in front, in performing the more brilliant part of the campaign, which has been brought to such a speedy and successful termination.

I have, &c.,

G. MALCOLM, Major-General,
Commanding 2nd Division Abyssinian
Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure 9 in No. 1.

Major-General RUSSELL, Commanding at Zoolla, to the Military Secretary to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

SIR,

Camp Zoulla, 3d June 1868.

I HAVE the honour in giving over the command of the Zoolla district to submit for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the services of the troops and Departmental Officers under my command.

On taking command of the Zoolla district about the middle of March last, the troops were thus distributed:—

AT ZOULLA.

The 5th Battery 25th Royal Artillery, the head-quarter wing of the 18th Regiment Native Infantry, one company Madras Sappers. Encamped and working on the railway between Zoulla and Koomeylee. A wing of the 2nd Grenadiers Regiment Native Infantry. A wing of the 18th Regiment Native Infantry. A portion of a company Madras Sappers and Miners.

AT KOOMEYLEE.

Head-quarters wing of the 2nd Grenadier Regiment Native Infantry. A portion of Madras Sappers.

At the posts in the Passes:—

The 21st Bengal (Punjaub) Native Infantry.

On assuming command of the Zoolla district there were four companies of the 45th Regiment encamped with the wings of the 2nd Grenadier and 18th Regiments Native Infantry, on the plain between Zoolla and Koomeylee, that had been for about six weeks employed in plate-laying and laying sleepers in making the road for the rail. Orders had been received to send the 45th to the front; but labour not being procurable, and their services being urgently required for the railroad they were detained; they left for the front about the 20th of March. All the troops, both British and Native, did good work, and when it is remembered that the railroad was entirely constructed by military labour, no other record of their good work is necessary.

I cannot speak too highly of the services performed by the 5th Brigade 25th Battery of Royal Artillery under the command of Major Bogle. This battery was detained at Zoolla, and its men and mules were constantly employed in carrying and escorting treasure and ammunition from Zoolla to the highlands. In this service they marched nearly 1,000 miles. The cheerfulness with which Major Bogle and his Officers and men undertook this duty is deserving of the highest praise. Major Bogle was not satisfied with merely performing the duty when ordered, but came forward on all occasions, expressing a wish that his battery might be employed for the good of the service, rather than remaining in garrison here. Considering that his battery was the only portion of British troops on the plains, I think the willing work done highly creditable. I made to the Assistant-Quartermaster General a special report.

The Madras Sappers have been constantly at work in increasing the width of the pier, making embankments along the shore to prevent the invasion of the sea, erecting hospital and other buildings, and assisting in the making of the railroad.

Those of the Sappers at Koomeylee were employed on the railroad, and at the wells, and they all performed their work with untiring energy. The Commanding Engineer will doubtless report on them.

The 2nd Grenadiers and 18th Regiment Native Infantry landed at Zoolla early in February, and have been continuously employed in working parties, landing stores, or on the railroad. Wings of these regiments under the command of Captain Boyd, officiating second in command, 2nd Grenadier Regiment, and of the 18th Regiment Native Infantry, under Major Alexander, were for nearly four months encamped between Zoolla and Koomeylee, cutting through embankments and making the road for the rail, carrying sleepers and laying them, and all such work appertaining to the formation of a line of rail—these men encamped in a hot plain, digging and carrying sand, removed from all excitement, and not even having the recreation of camp life, and its pleasures, deserve credit for the willing performance of not interesting work; and I think the men and their Commanding Officer deserving of praise. Colonel Muter, commanding the 2nd Grenadier Regiment, and commanding at Koomeylee, carried out his varied and arduous duties most efficiently. The arrangements necessary to provide for the comfort of the troops passing through, and for their carriage, and the general superintendence of so large a camp, with some 8,000 transport animals in it, are not light; in addition to this, the management for the supply of water was a matter requiring constant attention; all these prove that he had great responsibilities, and I think he showed himself equal to them.

The head-quarter wing of the 2nd Grenadier Regiment was employed at Koomylee in working parties on the railroad, wells, and other works, and the remarks on the other wing apply equally to this one.

The 2nd Grenadier and the 18th Regiments have been both similarly employed in working parties at Zoolla and on the rail, and the remarks on one apply equally to the other regiment. So hard was the work at Zoolla, every man that could be spared being sent to labour on the railroad, that they scarcely ever had two nights in bed, and frequently not this, and in addition had to furnish working parties to land stores, working at the pumps for water, &c.

Lieutenant-Colonel Combe, commanding 18th Regiment Native Infantry, gave me every assistance, and met every demand on his overworked men. As a General Officer was in command at Zoolla, his duties were not so various as had he been detached, but he most effectually assisted myself and the General Officer Commanding before me.

The 21st Punjaub Native Infantry, under the command of Major Thelwall, occupied the posts in the pass, two companies being for some time at Senafé.

This regiment worked most cheerfully and with energy. They had to patrol daily in armed parties, up and down, half-way between stations. Other parties had to patrol likewise to collect and burn dead animals. The several posts which I inspected in the latter part of April were kept in excellent order. The men's lines were tastefully laid out, and neatness and order prevailed. The encampments for convoys and for troops were judiciously selected and arranged. The sanitary condition of the stations, and of the line of road between them were decidedly good; without seeing the work that had to be done, and how efficiently it was carried on, it is scarcely possible to form an estimate.

Major Thelwall, commanding the corps, and Major Hudson, second in command, who commanded at various times at Undul Wells, Captain Collett who commanded at Rary Guddy, and Captain Tyler who commanded at Sooroo, I would especially bring to the notice of his Excellency, they and their men did excellent work, and when it is to be remembered to continual streams of convoys passing through their posts at all times, and that order and cleanliness prevailed, I think all deserving of credit.

The 26th Cameronians landed on the 2nd April and were sent up to Senafé in detachments, they were utilized in working parties of from 200 to 350 men daily as long as they remained, embanking the pier, on the railroad embankments, and carrying commissariat stores, their services were at the time of great value, as labour was not procurable; when they did march they were sent in escort of treasure.

Of the Departmental Officers in the Zoolla district, I would submit the services of S. Pelly, Esquire, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Branch. His administrative duties were of a peculiarly arduous nature; he had to arrange for the supply of Medical Stores to the whole force, to distribute the several Medical Officers on arrival, and to survey every vessel for the several corps and departments. He has had primarily and finally to survey each vessel, and to visit them with me after the troops or followers had been embarked. He has worked earnestly and well, and were it not for the cordial assistance I have received from him the embarkation of the troops could not have proceeded so rapidly as it has.

Lieutenant-Colonel Holland, Controller of Supply, has at all times consulted with me, and has met every request I have made for the good of the service.

I have also received every assistance from Lieutenant-Colonel Lucas, Deputy Commissary-General.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warden, Director Land Transport Corps, has exerted himself and has used his best endeavours to carry on his very arduous duties. I have always found him most willing to accept any recommendation or suggestion offered.

These officers are well known to His Excellency, but I trust I am not in error in mentioning them in as far as they have been associated with me.

From Major Roberts, V.C., the Assistant Quartermaster-General, I have received most valuable assistance, and he has conducted the duties of the department at Zoolla most entirely to my satisfaction. He has lately had very arduous duties in surveying and allotting vessels, and arranging the embarkation of the troops, and has in connexion with the naval and transport authorities carried on the duties to the satisfaction of all. He has taken such interest in the embarkation, and has been so energetic and efficient that I submitted a request from him to be permitted to remain at Zoolla, and complete the embarkation, which request has been granted. I am especially indebted to him for his very valuable assistance.

Dr. Guy, Senior Medical Officer, British troops, Zoolla, has given every assistance; his attention to the comfort and wants of the sick, and the care and consideration shown in receiving them on arrival from the highlands, and embarking them, have been marked.

Major Gammell, the Deputy Assistant-Quartermaster-General at Zoolla, has worked with great zeal and in a very satisfactory manner; he has evinced considerable ability; until quite lately he was the only Assistant to Major Roberts.

Major Baigrie, Captains Fawcett, Hogg, and James, have only lately joined, they have worked with zeal, and have been of great assistance, but as they, up to quite lately, belonged to the troops in the highlands, I presume their services are recorded by those under whom they served.

Captain Gregson, 26th Cameronians, was Brigade-Major here for some little time when there was considerable work consequent on the embarkation; he is a very promising officer, and I regret having to lose him; he worked with great zeal and energy.

I would especially bring to notice Captain Hawkes, ex-Commissariat Officer at Zoolla; his energy and zeal, and his talent for organization were considerable; during the very rapid embarkation of troops, and animals, and followers, there was not a single check; to me it is a marvel how he managed to have all prepared; he was always equal to the task, however difficult.

Koomylee being under my command, I would submit to his Excellency, the excellent work done by Major Nuttall, the second in command Land Transport Train; he had a very difficult command, sending off convoys, arranging everything for the very large depôt of animals; his energy and zeal are as great as ever, and he has I think exhibited considerable judgment in carrying on his work.

Having been ultimately associated with Commodore Heath, C.B., Commanding-in-Chief in the Indian Station, I wish to submit how I value the ready support and co-operation I have received from him.

The very rapid embarkation of the troops will testify how much the Military Department is indebted to Captain Tryon, R.N., the Principal Transport Officer, had we not been in concert, and working for the good of the service, the work could not have been carried out as it has.

Captain Edye, R.N., commanding the "Satellite," who has arranged the working of the lighters, and the conveyance of troops and animals to the ships, has most cordially assisted us. It is not for me to enter into the assistance afforded by Captain Edye in the disembarkation.

Lieutenant Osborne, R.N., of the "Satellite," has been in charge of the embarkation lighters; he has worked from morning to night, and deserves our thanks.

I would also especially mention Lieutenant Green, R.N., the Transport Officer, who has been associated with the Assistant Quartermaster-General in the primary and final surveys of vessels; his cheerful and cordial assistance has been marked, and I would especially mention him for consideration.

I have, &c.,

E. L. RUSSELL, Major-General Commanding Zoolla.

I would also bring to notice first-class Veterinary Surgeon Lamb, in charge of the animals of the Land Transport Train. His duties were very responsible; they are not so apparent as the work of officers of the general department or military, but not the less useful. The utility of the thousands of baggage animals was dependent on his supervision; he had the superintendence of Zoolla, the pioneer walls and Koomaylee, and did his duties with zeal and great efficiency. Every animal landed had to be inspected and cared for by him; his services in surveying vessels for the transport of animals have been of great importance and very responsible; he has been of great assistance to me; he has worked well and earnestly for the good of the service.

E. L. RUSSELL, Major-General.

Enclosure 10 in No. 1.

The Controller of Supply and Transport, to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

SIR,

Camp Koolla, May 28, 1868.

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed in your telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the following report on the department under my control.

The Deputy-Commissary-General and Director Land Transport Corps having been already called upon to forward reports on the working of their respective departments direct to Army Head Quarters, it only remains for me to speak of the general working of both, leaving it to the above officers to bring to His Excellency's notice any particulars that may be necessary, as well as the names of such officers who may be deserving of special mention.

3. The working of the Commissariat, organized as it has been of necessity from the three Presidencies, has achieved under Colonel Lucas' able direction a success which is equally creditable to the officers of each, who appear to have one and all so ably and cheerfully assisted him; the unprecedented difficulties which beset the department so well known to His Excellency, that I forbear to trouble him with an unnecessary recapitulation of them, and I trust that the exertions of the department generally have already secured His Excellency's full approbation.

4. The Land Transport Corps, under Colonel Warden, organized under such disadvantages, was a source of much anxiety at first, but short as the duration of the campaign has been, this Department has made most satisfactory progress towards efficiency, a result which is mainly due to the earnest exertions in the right direction of Major Warden and the officers of the corps, who have cheerfully undergone an amount of toil and hardship most creditable to them individually, which has materially tended to ensure to Colonel Warden the success he has reached, and which could never have been attained without the most zealous and hearty co-operation amongst those under his command.

I desire to recommend to his Excellency's favourable notice the following officers of the Commissariat and Land Transport Corps, whose services have been under my more immediate observation.

Captain Willoughby proceeded to Egypt in August last, and was employed in taking up ships, superintending the despatch of animals to Zoolla, and arranging for supplies for the force. Joined the force at Zoolla the middle of January last, and was immediately ordered by his Excellency to return to Egypt on special duty connected with the requirements of the force; returned to Zoolla the beginning of March, since when he has been assistant in my office.

Captain Willoughby's duties, which were of a most responsible and arduous nature, were conducted with much judgment, for which he is deserving of great credit. As my assistant, Captain Willoughby has rendered most valuable assistance, the separation of my office from Army Head Quarters having necessitated a considerable increase of work.

7. Major Stansfeld, Madras Commissariat, succeeded Captain Willoughby in Egypt, and has filled the important and responsible position there to my entire satisfaction.

8. Captain P. Bartholomew, Lieutenant Luckhardt, and Veterinary Surgeon Boulter, proceeded to Egypt with Captain Willoughby, and have done excellent service in their respective departments.

9. Lieutenant Carnac, of the Land Transport Corps, was temporarily attached to my office previous to Captain Willoughby joining, and I found him a most intelligent and hardworking officer, evincing much interest in the success of the new corps he had so lately joined.

I have, &c.,

H. W. HOLLAND, Lieut.-Col.
Controller, Supply and Transport.

Enclosure 11 in No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. LUCAS, Deputy Commissary-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, Zoolla, to the DEPUTY ADJUTANT-GENERAL, Army Head Quarters.

SIR,

Camp, Zoolla, May 20, 1868.

THE campaign having now terminated, and the embarkation of the army being so far advanced, I have the honour to forward the following report on the working of the Field Commissariat throughout the Expedition, for submission to his Excellency the Commander-in-chief.

2. The exceptional circumstances, and the very great difficulties under which the Commissariat operations have been carried on, are well known to his Excellency.

1st. The short time in which the whole of the preparations had to be made; the very difficult nature of the country; the feeding of the whole of the army, followers, and cattle having to be arranged for from India, Egypt, and England; the provisioning of the Force inland being almost entirely dependent on supplies from the sea-coast makes the present campaign the most difficult the Commissariat has ever entered upon.

3. At the period the Expedition was organized, the Commissariat Establishment in India had been reduced to the very lowest limit at which it was possible to carry on work in time of peace, the sudden and enormous pressure to collect and ship off the supplies required for 12,000 fighting men, 30,000 followers, and some 30,000 animals, compelled the Commissary-General at Bombay to weaken all Commissariat Out-Station offices, to strengthen the Presidency Office; hence, with the exception of Commissariat officers and some few of the warrant and non-commissioned grades, the field establishment had to be formed from new and untried materials, and which necessarily added greatly to the labour and anxiety of the officers.

4. It will be observed from the accompanying nominal rolls of officers, warrant and non-commissioned officers, that although the organization was from Bombay, the Commissariat was drawn from the three presidencies and may, therefore be looked on as the Indian Commissariat.

5. One list exhibits the general duties on which the several officers have been employed, and although it appears almost invidious to make a distinction where one and all have worked so well, the object I may safely mention of the whole having been to insure the success of the expedition and efficiency of the department. I must in justice bring to his Excellency's special notice the services of the under-mentioned:—

Major Mignon, who landed with the Pioneer Force, overcame the difficulties consequent on the landing on a strange and barren shore, and who has since so ably conducted his duties as Assistant Commissary-General, 1st Division, with the advance.

Major Bardin, Assistant Commissary-General, 2nd Division, who is a most valuable officer, and who organized the Inland Depôts between this and Senafé, and proceeded to join the advance on the army marching to the front.

Captain Hawkes, who has performed the very important and heavy duties in charge of the dépôt at Zoolla and out-dépôts to Senafé, and through whose indefatigable exertions so much of the efficiency of the Commissariat with the army is attributable.

Major Heysham, also attached to the Zoolla Dépôt, and who was deputed to visit the different ports in the Red Sea, and so ably performed the important special duties required from him; vide reports already submitted to his Excellency.

Captain M. W. Willoughby, Assistant Commissary-General, and who performed the duties of collecting and forwarding supplies and cattle from Egypt in a most efficient manner, until he was transferred to the office of the Controller at the end of February last.

Major Stansfield, who succeeded Captain Willoughby as Senior Commissariat Officer in Egypt, and has since so ably conducted the important duties there.

Major J. Thacker, in charge of the dépôt, Senafé, and out dépôts to Antalo, and who has laboured with unremitting zeal to insure efficiency on the highlands; and by the means of native carriage pushed on so large a quantity of supplies.

Captain N. R. Burlton, also attached to the Zoolla Dépôt, and whose unremitting attention to the duties in the office in a most trying climate, and under great difficulties, and—

Lieutenant Shewell, who arrived with the Pioneer Force, and has served both at Zoolla, and in the advance; and to whose good management, the purchase of so large a quantity of supplies is attributable.

6. The second list exhibits the duties performed by the warrant and non-commissioned grades, and I beg to bring prominently to the notice of his Excellency the very valuable services rendered by Conductor Henderson. I cannot speak too well of this warrant officer; his zeal, attention, and intelligence, is beyond all praise, and I trust I may not be considered as asking too much in recommending that the rank of Lieutenant, with promotion to the grade of Deputy Assistant Commissary be granted to him. Mr. Henderson is perfectly qualified for the improved position, and on the promotion being granted him, I am confident he would perform all duties required with credit to himself and advantage to the State. Conductor Lee, Bombay Commissariat, and Conductor Greatorex, Madras Commissariat, have served excellently, and I beg to recommend their promotion to the grade of Deputy Assistant Commissary.

7. The termination of the war will, I fear, cause a loss on the large quantity of surplus supplies, but this could not be avoided; the nature of the country in which we are serving made it imperative to insure the safety of the army, to have a reserve of provisions to last until the re-opening of the fair season; had the war lasted, the whole would have been consumed by the end of October next. From the peculiar nature of the country it is not even now safe to withdraw the surplus provisions from the highlands; the Pass has already been closed three times from rushes of water during the current month, and it is therefore essential that the reserve be kept at Senafé to the last, and which may probably cause the loss of the surplus stock now there; but this is preferable to running the risk of leaving the force without food.

8. The services of the undermentioned officers temporarily attached as Sub-Assistant Commissary Generals to the Force may now be dispensed with, and I beg to recommend that they be permitted to rejoin their regiments—

Captain Callwell;
 Captain Newport;
 Lieutenant Hore;
 Lieutenant Mackinnon;
 Ensign Humfrey;
 Ensign Scott;

9. I beg to solicit his Excellency's kind consideration of the hardships and difficulties the whole of the followers have undergone, and the cheerful manner in which all their duties have been performed; and I beg to recommend that clerks and followers of all classes who have served three months in Abyssinia be granted a gratuity of one month's pay each on discharge, in addition to pay to the date landing in India.

10. The camels purchased in Egypt by Captain Willoughby have been attached to the Commissariat, and I cannot close this report without mentioning them: they are all well selected and first-class animals, I have worked them with the Egyptian drivers, who have been found excellent camel men. They are strong and hardy men, well acquainted with their duties, and are, I think, far superior in a campaign of this description to Asiatics. They have been found obedient and hard working, and always willing to take punishment from the officer commanding them, but not from subordinates. I am of opinion in any future operations that these men would be most valuable in the field, but only in having proper interpreters attached to them, and their inspectors or petty officers being appointed from their own class.

11. In conclusion, I trust the general working of the Commissariat has met with his Excellency's approval.

I have, &c.,

A. W. LUCAS, Lieutenant-Colonel,
 Deputy Commissary-General,
 Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

List of Commissariat Officers serving with the Abyssinian Field Expedition. Office of the Deputy Commissary-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, Camp Zoolla, May 20, 1868.

Rank and Name.	Corps.	How Employed.
<i>Deputy Commissary General.</i>		
Lieut.-Col. A. W. Lucas	Bombay Staff Corps	Served as head of the Commissariat throughout the campaign.
<i>Assistant Commissary-Generals, 1st Class.</i>		
Major F. P. Mignon	Ditto	Served throughout the campaign; first at Zoolla depôt, and afterwards with 1st Division, Army Head-Quarters.
Major G. R. F. Bardin	Madras Staff Corps	2nd Brigade, 1st Division.
<i>Assistant Commissary-Generals, 2nd Class.</i>		
Major J. Leven	Bengal Staff Corps	Charge of depôt at Antalo.
Captain M. W. Willoughby	Bombay Staff Corps	Served as Senior Commissariat Officer in Egypt, to end of February, when he was transferred to the office of the Controller of Supply and Transport.
Captain H. P. Hawkes	Madras Staff Corps	Charge of depôt and Extra Commissariat Officer, Zoolla, and of depôt between Zoolla and Senafé.
<i>Deputy Assistant Commissary-Generals, 1st Class.</i>		
Major B. F. Heysham	Madras Staff Corps	Attached to Zoolla depôt. Charge of Bunder, landing and shipping stores. Visited ports in the Red Sea, on Special duty.
Major W. Stansfield	Ditto	Senior Commissariat Officer in Egypt.
Major John Thacker	Bombay Staff Corps	Charge of depôt at Senafé, and on depôts to Antalo.
<i>Deputy Assistant Commissary-Generals, 2nd Class.</i>		
Captain N. R. Burlton	Bengal Staff Corps	Attached to Zoolla depôt.
Lieutenant W. F. Keays	Bombay Staff Corps	Ditto.

Rank and Name.	Corps.	How Employed.
<i>Sub-Assistant Commissary-Generals, 1st Class.</i>		
Lieutenant A. M. Shewell -	Bombay Staff Corps. -	Served from landing of Pioneers at Zoolla depôt, to date of leaving of advance force. Served with the advance throughout the campaign.
Lieutenant G. F. Bryant -	Ditto - - - -	Attached to Zoolla depôt.
Lieutenant W. G. Smith -	Bengal Staff Corps -	In charge of Bengal Kahars. Attached to Zoolla office.
Lieutenant L. B. Smith -	Madras Infantry -	Charge of Madras dooley bearers. Served with advance force.
Lieutenant Luckhardt -	109th Foot - -	Assistant to the Senior Commissariat Officer in Egypt. Has performed most excellent service throughout the campaign.
Lieutenant S. Hunt -	Madras Staff Corps -	Attached to the Senior Commissariat Officer, Egypt.
Major B. G. Vandergucht -	Bengal Staff Corps -	With Koomaylee depôt. Has performed excellent service. Proceeded sick to Europe.
Major F. J. Ellis -	Ditto - - -	An intelligent and active officer. Attached to Senafé depôt.
Captain H. W. Burlton -	Ditto - - -	Charge of Undul wells depôt.
Captain J. Stevenson -	Ditto - - -	Charge of depôt Sooroo.
Lieutenant W. E. Begbie -	General List -	Attached to Zoolla depôt. Very intelligent and hard-working officer. Has been of great assistance.
Lieut. M. A. Rowlandson -	41st Regiment, N.I. -	Ditto.
<i>Attached in Abyssinia.</i>		
Lieut. J. W. Ouchterlony -	Late Madras Fusileers -	Charge of Commissariat elephants. Has served with the advance, and been most zealous and attentive to his duties.
Captain R. J. Callwell -	45th Regiment -	Charge of depôt at Attalo.
Lieutenant W. S. Hore -	General List - -	Charge of depôt at Lake Ashangi.
Captain H. W. Newport -	18th Regiment, N.I. -	Charge of depôt at Addigerat.
Lieut. D. W. Mackinnon -	109th Regiment, attached 25th Regiment, N.I.	Charge of 2nd detachment, Commissariat camels.
Lieut. John Humprey -	45th Regiment - -	Charge of 1st detachment, ditto.
Lieut. E. J. Gunthorpe -	Madras General List, at- tached 2nd Grenadiers	Attached to Commissariat in Egypt.
Ensign J. C. Scott -	1st Batt. King's Own Regt.	With Koomaylee depôt. An intelligent and attentive officer.

A. W. LUCAS,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Deputy Commissary-General
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

LIST of Warrant Officers &c, serving with the Abyssinian Field Expedition.
Deputy Commissioner-General's Office, Zoulla, May 20, 1868.

Rank and Names.	Corps.	How Employed.
<i>Conductors.</i>		
J. Henderson - - -	Bombay Commissariat -	Landed at Zoulla, October 24, 1867. An invaluable man. For a long time he worked alone at Zoulla, carrying on single-handed the executive duties of this important depôt. His indefatigable zeal and energy, and his cheerfulness under the most trying circumstances, has been beyond all praise.
W. Lee - - -	Ditto - - -	Carried on the duties at Koomaylee with great zeal and efficiency; is one of the few who has rendered his accounts properly whilst in charge of a depôt. Landed at Zoulla, October 24, 1867.
J. Greatorex - - -	Madras Commissariat -	Organized the forwarding depôt at Koomaylee, upon the correct and efficient working of which so much depended. His accounts are a pattern of neatness and accuracy. Landed at Zoulla, December 7, 1867.
J. Wood - - -	Ditto - - -	Steady and attentive. Landed at Zoulla, March 29, 1868.
J. Pearson - - -	Bombay Commissariat -	Has carried on the executive duties at Koomaylee satisfactorily.
<i>Sub-Conductors.</i>		
Crowe - - -	Bombay Commissariat -	Active and very hardworking; has served throughout the campaign. Landed at Zoulla, October 24, 1867.
C. Maggs - - -	Ditto - - -	A most intelligent and hardworking man; gave great satisfaction for the time he was in the depôt. Left sick on medical certificate to England. Landed at Zoulla, December 31, 1867.
J. Griffiths - - -	Madras Commissariat -	Steady and efficient. Returned sick to India in April.
<i>Commissariat, Sergeants.</i>		
D. Heron - - -	Madras Commissariat -	Has had charge of Rara Guddy. Given great satisfaction; rendered his accounts promptly and accurately, and has received flattering notice from the officer commanding the station. Landed at Zoulla, December 7, 1867.
J. Holborn - - -	Ditto - - -	Had charge of Adoda, which he managed most efficiently, and was compelled to return to India in May 1868 after repeated attacks of fever contracted there. Landed at Zoulla, December 7, 1867.
R. Langley - - -	Ditto - - -	Had charge of dooley bearers. Returned to India in April 1868. Landed December 7, 1867.
C. Sennington - - -	Ditto - - -	Has worked zealously and efficiently. To him is in a great measure due the speedy and efficient manner in which the ships have been provisioned for the return voyage. Landed at Zoulla, December 24, 1867.
G. D'Arcy - - -	Bombay Commissariat -	A good and able man. Highly spoken of by all under whom he has served. Landed at Zoulla, October 28, 1867.
C. Leslie - - -	Bengal - - -	Much of the present efficient state of the bakery is attributable to this Sergeant. Landed at Zoulla, January 21, 1868.
W. Beaumont - - -	Madras Commissariat -	A steady and intelligent man. Landed at Zoulla, December 24, 1867.
R. Harley - - -	Bengal Commissariat -	} Intelligent, well-conducted, and zealous men, have worked steadily and efficiently.
J. Carroll - - -	Ditto - - -	
A. Little - - -	Ditto - - -	
W. Brown - - -	Madras Commissariat -	
C. Carroll - - -	Ditto - - -	Recently arrived. Landed in March 1868, and returned to India in April 1868.
C. Haslam - - -	Bengal Commissariat -	Landed in January 1868.

A. W. LUCAS, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure 12 in No. 1.

The PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER to the MILITARY SECRETARY to His Excellency the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

SIR,

Camp, Addijerat, May 22d, 1868.

ON the conclusion of a campaign which I feel assured will be regarded as one of the most successful in the military history of our country, I trust his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will permit me, as head of the Medical Department of the Abyssinian Expedition, to bring to his notice the names of the three medical officers noted in the margin,* who from their positions in the service and the responsible duties which devolved upon them, have established, I respectfully submit, a fair claim to some honorary distinction or reward.

Deputy-Inspector General Pelly, Principal Medical Officer of the 2d Division, and senior officer of the Indian Service (medical), has been stationed at the base of operations during the campaign; and the various duties which he has been called upon to perform in that position have necessarily been of a very important and responsible nature.

Dr. Pelly has displayed administrative abilities of a high order, and nothing could exceed his devotion to the interests of the service in connexion with the Expedition.

Deputy-Inspector of Hospitals, Dr. Mahaffy, also of the Indian Medical Service, and Principal Medical Officer of the 1st Division, accompanied the Force in advance; and on all occasions, as I doubt not, his Excellency is well aware, was indefatigable in providing for the care and comfort of the sick, and doing the utmost in his power to meet the medical requirements of the Force.

I consider Dr. Mahaffy an excellent administrative officer, and his services in this campaign have been highly meritorious.

Staff-Surgeon Major Guy, 27 years' service, and second Senior Medical Officer of the British service, with this force, has been stationed at Zoolla from the commencement of the campaign, in the capacity of Superintendent of Hospital-ships, and Principal Medical Officer of the European troops at Zoolla.

Without going into details, I may state generally that Staff-Surgeon Major Guy's duties, more especially in connexion with the arrival of troops and invaliding of sick to England, have been such as to require ability and judgment.

Dr. Guy is a hard-working and conscientious medical officer, and I can honestly testify that he has discharged the duties of his appointment ably and satisfactorily.

Staff-Assistant Surgeon W. S. Martin was appointed to the exploring party, which was sent to Abyssinia in September last, and accompanied it through various expeditions undertaken for the purpose of discovering a practicable route for troops from the sea to the highlands.

He wrote an excellent report upon the different routes examined, and compiled a valuable meteorological record.

On the arrival of the Expeditionary Force in Abyssinia, his Excellency was good enough, on my recommendation, to appoint Dr. Martin to the office of Secretary to the Principal Medical Officer of this Force.

The duties of this appointment, I may be allowed to observe, are of a difficult and laborious nature, more especially in connexion with medical statistics: a branch of science with which Dr. Martin is fully conversant.

I feel it due to this officer to testify to the able and efficient manner in which he has discharged duties, requiring high attainments and great industry.

I may add that Assistant-Surgeon Martin's scientific and professional acquirements are very considerable, and I look upon him as a medical officer of great promise in the Department.

On the grounds of valuable services performed during this arduous and peculiarly difficult campaign, I conceive that Dr. Martin has established a strong claim to promotion for meritorious and distinguished services, and if the rules of the Service permit (and I know of none which precludes a medical officer of upwards of five years' service from obtaining promotion), I beg strongly to recommend that Staff Assistant-Surgeon, W. S. Martin, be promoted to the rank of Surgeon, as a reward to himself and an encouragement to others of the Department.

In 1865 Dr. Martin held medical charge of the wing of 45th Regiment at Neemuch, during a severe visitation of epidemic cholera.

In 1866-7 was in medical charge of the Sanitarium at Poorundhur; and in 1868 was Secretary to the Principal Medical Officer of the Abyssinian Expedition.

In addition to the officers whose services I have now submitted to his Excellency for favourable consideration, there are many others who have displayed zeal and ability, and have proved themselves in many respects highly efficient medical officers in the field.

This class comprises officers of different grades and standing, in both the British and Indian medical services, and as I wish justice to be done to every one whose services have been in any degree deserving of special notice, I shall not fail to adopt such measures as will insure their merits being brought under the immediate notice of the professional Heads of the two Departments in England and India, in order that their services in this campaign may be permanently recorded.

I have, &c.,

S. CURRIE, Inspector-General of Hospitals,
and Principal Medical Officer Bombay Staff,
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

* Dr. Pelly Deputy-Inspector General of Hospitals; Dr. Mahaffy, Deputy-Inspector General of Hospitals; Staff-Surgeon Major Guy.

Enclosure 13 in No. 1.

MEMORANDUM showing the Amount of Sickness and Mortality in the British Troops, Abyssinia Expeditionary Force, during the Entire Campaign.

Average strength	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,688.8
Average daily sick	-	-	-	-	-	-	156.62
Ratio per cent. sick to strength	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.8
" deaths "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3

Casualties.

<i>Officers :—</i>							
Highlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Lowlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
<i>Men :—</i>							
Highlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Lowlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	37

Officers' Deaths caused as follows :—

Diseases.	No.	Remarks.
Dysentery acuta	2	One accident one suicide.
Insolatio	2	
Vulnus sclopetarium	2	
Morb. valv. cordis	1	Accidental drowning.
Apoplexia	1	
Emersio	1	
Febris continua	1	
Angina pectoris	1	
Total	11	

Men's Deaths.

Diseases.	Number.
Dysentery acuta	17
" chronic	1
Vulnus sclopetarium	1
Insolatio	8
Febris remitt.	1
" intermitt.	1
" typhoid	1
" continua	1
Hepatitis acuta	1
Aneurisma	1
Nephria	1
Nephritis	1
Verrenatio	1
Paralysis	1
Total	37

Distribution of Casualties by Corps.

Corps.	Officers.	Men.
Royal Artillery - - - -	1	5
Royal Engineers - - - -	1	2
3rd Dragoon Guards - - - -	—	2
1st batallion 4th King's Own Regiment - - - -	1	11
26th Cameronians - - - -	—	3
33rd Regiment - - - -	3	4
45th Regiment - - - -	1	8
Army Hospital Corps - - - -	—	2
Medical Staff - - - -	2	—
Military Store Staff - - - -	1	—
Veterinary Staff - - - -	1	—
Total - - - -	11	37

S. CURRIE, Inspector-General, Abyssinian Field Force.

Enclosure 14 in No. 1.

From Lieutenant-Colonel ST. CLAIR WILKINS, R.E., Commanding Engineer, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, to Captain T. J. HOLLAND, Assistant-Quartermaster-General, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, Head Quarters.

SIR,

Zoolla, 30th May 1868.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of his Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, G.C.B. and G.C.S.I., Commander-in-chief Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, a brief report of the operation of the Engineer Department in Abyssinia, of the services of the officers of the Departments, together with a report in detail of the several works executed.

2. Plans of the port, coast, depôt, and camp of Zoolla, the railway line, and other works are annexed.

3. The officers of the reconnoitring party, despatched from Bombay on the 16th of September last year, having, on the 2nd of October, examined the Port of Massowah and the water supply of that port on the plains of Mucculloo, five miles distant from the sea, formed the opinion that that harbour was too small to accommodate more than half-a-dozen vessels, and that the water supply was of too limited and precarious a nature to meet the requirements of the Expedition, the "Euphrates," and the "Coromandel," containing the exploring force then steamed southwards into Annesley Bay, and the water supply at Negoosa, on the promontory of Buri, was examined without satisfactory results. Crossing the bay, the vessels took up a position off the village of Zoolla, and the water supply from the Huddas River promising fairly, and an investigation of the shores round the bay, combined with information obtained, presenting no better prospect, it was determined to make Zoolla the base of exploration in the country.

The beach at Zoolla shelving very gradually into the sea, it became at once a matter of great importance to commence the construction of a suitable pier for landing purposes. Some iron girders and stout rafters had been brought up in the steamers to assist in forming a pier, but from the nature and formation of the shore it was approved that a long pier would have to be constructed from local resources. The plain bounding the sea was covered with low bushes, but unfortunately no stone was to be had; under these circumstances, fascines were prepared from the brushwood, and being strongly staked down formed retaining fences for the filling in.

Arrangements were at once made for the collection of native crafts from Massowah and neighbouring ports, and the conveyance of stone from the opposite side of the bay, commenced towards the middle of October. Sea-walls were then built outside the fascines, and by degrees the pier was run out 900 feet into the sea, giving a depth of 5 feet at low water springs. The greater portion of the pier was filled with stone.

This stone pier was completed sufficiently to be used in landing the advanced brigade and their horses in November; and by the middle of December the pier was in general use, having a tramway laid from its head to some distance up the beach, then greatly facilitating the landing of Commissariat, Land Transport Train, Ordnance, and other stores. A tramway was laid down on the beach, running down to low water line as early as October, and was of much service previous to the pier coming into use.

In this month also a road 50 feet in breadth was cleared through the jungle from the pier to the camp $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant.

By the end of November the works executed at Zoolla comprised the nearly finished stone pier, a cleared road to camp from the sea, the clearing out of the old village wells in the bed of the Huddas River, and the construction of 20 new ones, whereby about 2,000 men and 2,000 animals were watered daily, a large store shed, and a water-shoot 480 feet in length, raised on trestles above the

sea, for conveying to the tanks which were being collected on shore sweet water condensed by Her Majesty's ship "Satellite."

The satisfactory progress made with the Zoolla works generally up to the close of the year is attributable to the untiring zeal and energy displayed by the officers in executive charge, Captain W. W. Goodfellow, Field Officer, and second in command of Royal Engineers with the Force.

It is unnecessary for me to bring this officer's subsequent services to his Excellency's notice—those services having been performed under his Excellency's own observation. I would wish, however, to record how highly I appreciate Captain W. W. Goodfellow's services, and how much I feel indebted to him for his support and example, and for the cheerfulness and fertility of resource he has so constantly displayed.

On his Excellency's arrival at Zoolla early in January, many additional Commissariat and other sheds had been erected, and the commencement made of a second pier, a pile pier, the materials for which had been prepared and sent out from Bombay.

Captain Chrystie, R.E., Field Engineer, assumed charge of the Zoolla works on the 1st of January, and in his hands the pile pier made rapid progress, and was nearly completed up to the island by the 5th of February, when Captain Chrystie was ordered to Senafé, and was relieved at Zoolla by Captain Wood, R.E., Field Engineer.

Captain Wood completed the pile pier, and built a new head to the stone pier, greatly improving it. Captain Woods' work was distinguished by its solidity and permanent character. That the piers were not damaged by the late gales is attributable to this officer's good work at the head of the piers. Captain Wood was unfortunately taken ill, and had to go on board the hospital ship; Lieutenant Lee, Royal Engineers, Assistant Field Engineer, assuming charge of the Zoolla works.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellent character of the works carried out by this officer, who has had many years experience on public works.

Lieutenant Lee completed the works at Zoolla as they now stand.

A tramway having been proposed to be laid on the lowland county between Zoolla and the base of the mountains at Koomaylee, a distance of about 12 miles, Lieutenant Willans, Royal Engineers, Assistant Field Engineer, commenced surveying the line in November, and the works were commenced in December, when the ships with the plant from Bombay began to arrive.

An iron girder bridge of three spans of 20 feet was constructed over a branch of the Huddas River in December, and about a mile of earthworks were constructed and rails laid by the end of January.

Six miles of railway, with a branch of half a mile to the Commissariat sheds, were completed by the 19th February, and the Commissariat Department commenced running all their stores and provisions to the sixth-mile siding. This enabled the Land Transport Train to move the whole of their animals from Zoolla, thus relieving the water condensing operations enormously, and saving considerably in time and animals in the trip from the coast to Senafé.

All Commissariat and other stores now sent out to the sixth-mile siding were conveyed away by carts and baggage animals sent out from Koomaylee, and which returned to that post the same day.

A second Commissariat siding was opened for traffic at the ninth mile from Zoolla, on the 28th of March, thus further reducing the labour of the transport animals.

At the end of April the railway was completed to within a mile of the camp at Koomaylee. The traffic on the line had now become so great that the Commissariat Department absorbed the whole of the rolling stock. It was found that what with the Commissariat requirements, and the increased time taken up by the lengthened journey, trains for the conveyance of railway plant could no longer be given. With extreme reluctance it was then decided that the works must be brought to a close by the construction of a loop-line and terminus at about a mile from Koomaylee.

The heat on the plains was so great when the works were being close that not more than five and a half to six hours' work could be obtained from the workpeople.

By great good fortune, water was obtained from wells at the fourth, seventh, and ninth miles on the road, by the excavation of wells 50, 65, and 85 feet in depth respectively at each point named.

Watering-tanks for the engines were set up by the side of the line, and fed from these wells by piping.

A good supply of water being obtainable at the fourth mile, "Pioneer Wells," the locomotive workshops were established at this place. It was also found desirable that the whole of the locomotive establishment should be permanently situated at the "Pioneer Wells," so as to be close to their works.

The railway, properly speaking, is only a tramroad, so far as the rails and rolling stock are concerned. The rails are light, and the rolling stock consists of contractor's engines and trucks. Nevertheless the tramroad has been called upon to do the duty of a railway, and it has, by constant care and management, been kept up to the work required of it.

The main line from Zoolla to Koomaylee is 10½ miles in length, and altogether 12 miles 106 yards of rails have been laid. For the first six miles the plain rises pretty gradually from the sea to a height of about 100 feet above that level. The railway line then passes through a low range of hills, keeping the bank of the river—there is some heavy work on this portion of the line in cutting, embankments, and bridges. The line then descends about 50 feet into the Koomaylee plain, and rises to a height of 348 feet at the Koomaylee terminus.

Eight iron girder bridges and a large number of drains have been constructed on the line.

The whole of the railway, earthworks, embankments, cuttings, bridges, and drains, have been executed by troops of the force and by men of the Army Works Corps. A few civilian plate-layers, some from Bombay, and some obtained from the shipping and departments of the Army, have superintended the plate-laying. The greater portion of the railway will have been constructed by the 23rd Punjab Pioneers, commanded by Major Chamberlain, and the 2nd Bombay Grenadiers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Muter. I am particularly desirous that the services of these two corps, in performing a duty so utterly new to them, should be brought to his Excellency's notice. The cheerfulness and willingness on the works of the men of these corps, inspired by the spirit and tone of their officers, have been most conspicuous, and is deserving of the highest praise. The Punjab Pioneers are very clever, and quite artistic in all they do, under the guidance of their skilful commander. The wells made by them at the station called "Pioneers' Wells," and at the Bridge, are models of skill in well-digging.

The 2nd Grenadiers worked on the line during the hot season, but they always evinced the greatest alacrity and desire to further the work.

I respectfully wish to bring to his Excellency's special notice the services of Captain Darrah, R.E., Field Engineer, who has superintended the railway works from the commencement to the completion, as well as the services of his assistants—Lieutenant Williams, R.E., Assistant Field Engineer; Lieutenant Pennefather, R.E., Assistant Field Engineer; Lieutenant Baird, R.E., Assistant Field Engineer; Lieutenant Graham, 108th Regiment, Assistant Field Engineer.

Lieutenant Williams, R.E., commenced the railway survey on 16th November, and he remained on the works superintending the bridges till 15th March, when he was ordered to the front. He returned to Zoolla on 20th May, and resumed his position on the railway.

Lieutenant Pennefather joined the railway works on 23rd of December, and he has never left the works for a day up to this time.

Lieutenant Baird, R.E., arrived from Bombay on the 28th February, and he at once took up the appointment of traffic manager of the line.

Lieutenant Graham, 108th Regiment, joined Captain Darrah on the 20th January, and he has been on the works the whole campaign.

As the railway works have been carried out under my own supervision, I am able to speak from personal observation of the devotion to duty displayed by Captain Darrah and his assistants.

Early and late, day by day, for upwards of five months, have these officers, under most trying circumstances of climate, strained to the utmost ability and strength to further the success of the expedition so far as the railway was concerned.

His Excellency should be informed of the exemplary conduct throughout of the under-mentioned non-commissioned officers employed on the railway works from nearly their commencement to the completion. All skilled men, the value of their services have been increased by their good conduct:—

Corporal Heinig, R.E., 10th Company; Sergeant Webb, Corporal Recks, Private Cooper, Private Cox, 1st Battalion, 4th King's Own Regiment; Private Miller, 45th Foot.

The difficulties of even trusting a railway with unprofessional labour have been greatly enhanced from the circumstances of five different descriptions of rails having been provided for the work on four different principles of fixing.

Had it been possible to land and carefully stack each description of rail prior to plate-laying, the variation in the rails would not have been the cause of much inconvenience.

As it happened, this difference of pattern proved most annoying, for the disembarkation of the plank just kept pace with the requirements of the works, and the line was fed from hand to mouth throughout; consequently there was no time for sorting and stacking.

The Kurrachee rails have given the greatest trouble in laying and maintenance, being very much worn and bent, and being a joint chair and not a fish-plated rail.

The 40 lb. fish-plated rail would have been more useful if the fish plate holes had fitted those in the rails. In five cases out of ten they did not fit, nor would the bolts go through the holes.

My opinion is that railways required for the operations of war should be carried out entirely as a civil work by engineers and contractors who make it their business to construct railways, and who would bring to bear on the works their own experience and that of professional establishments.

In the present case it is worthy of remark, as a set-off, that, although the railway works have not been constructed so well and so quickly as they would have been by a professional contractor, yet the line was made in time to be exceedingly useful, and the difference of expense between the two systems is very great.

I understand the tender of an eminent contractor for making the Abyssinian railway was at the rate of 6,000*l.* a mile, which would have brought up the cost of the whole line to about 72,000*l.*, exclusive of rails and plant.

As near as I can ascertain, the cost of making the Abyssinian railway has been about 6,000*l.*, exclusive of rails and plant.

It must not be supposed from this statement that the contractor (had the line been let to him) would have made a large profit. His expenses would have been very great for labour and superintendence.

Roads.

Early in November last year, when it was determined to explore the Koomaylee Pass, No. 1 Company of Bombay Sappers were sent to work in the Sooroo defile under Lieutenant Jopp, R.E., Assistant Field Engines Superintendence.

From the time of the Koomaylee Pass being adopted as a route, strenuous exertions were made to construct a cart road through the Sooroo defile, the road was completed by the 31st January, the works having been well carried out under the directions of Lieutenant A. K. Jopp, R.E., Lieutenant (now Captain) Sturt, R.E., Lieutenant Coaker, R.E., who are deserving of His Excellency's notice.

The Sooroo defile occupied the labour of two companies of Sappers, and two companies of Beloochees for three months. The road, when completed, had a breadth of about 10 feet, and was constructed on the principle of ramping over boulders and obstacles, instead of attempting their

removal by blasting. The boulders which it was necessary to remove with the miner's drill, were found to be of the toughest description of granite, and for some time the Sappers were unable to make any impression upon them.

Almost simultaneously with the construction of the Sooroo defile road, was the work of clearing a cart road the whole way from Zoulla to Senafe, a distance of 63 miles taken in hand. The rise in this road, in the length of 63 miles, is 7,400 feet.

About a mile of defile road at Rayrayguddy had to be built much in the same manner as the Sooroo; and at $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Senafe a ghaut road $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length had to be cut out of the mountain side.

The whole road was open for cart traffic the early days of February.

The road has been kept in a perfect state of repair up to the 8th of May, when thunder-storms commenced breaking over the passes and doing serious damage to the made road.

A cart-road was also made between Senafe and Addigerat, a further distance of 17 miles. Two pieces of ghaut road occur on this line, the Goon Goona and Kersubba Ghauts from Addigerat to Antalo; so much of the route was cleared as to render it possible for the 9-14th battery to be driven to that post.

Beyond Antalo to Magdala the road can only be described as a track passable for laden mules and elephants.

A detailed description of the roads will be found in the accompanying report.

An alternative route was commenced by the Huddas River, but was abandoned through sickness of the troops engaged, and from other causes.

Captain Hills, R.E., Field Engineer, who held the post of Executive Engineer at Koomaylee and Senafe during the campaign, has exerted himself in a very creditable manner in exploring for the best line of road to be taken to the Huddas.

Water Supply.

When large bodies of troops and followers had landed at Zoolla and animals of the transport train accumulated in great numbers, it became necessary to condense a large supply of water.

About 200 tons of water were landed daily from steamers in the harbour by means of a wooden shoot which conveyed the water to iron tanks, from which a long wooden trough was kept constantly filled.

The troops soon moved up country, and, on the opening of the sixth-mile siding on the railway, the whole of the transport train animals were moved to Koomaylee; then the supply required from the condensers became greatly reduced.

The allowance of water to every individual in Zoolla, camp, officers, soldiers, and followers, has been $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons daily per head, a by no means wasteful allowance when the climate is considered.

A water supply for about 5,000 animals, and proportion of men, was provided at Koomaylee in December and January, but on these numbers being greatly increased in March, it became necessary to increase this water supply.

Force, suction, and chain pumps were set up at the wells, capable of watering 10,000 to 15,000 animals and 5,000 men, and long ranges of troughs were provided, rendering the watering of animals an easy operation.

Lieutenant Le Messurier, R.E., Assistant Field Engineer, came out from England specially to set up the new American tube wells and pumps at the different posts; this energetic officer took charge of the whole water supply generally, and, with his assistants, inaugurated and carried out a very efficient system of water supply at each post, as far as Addigerat.

Lieutenant Le Mesurier's creditable exertions have doubtless come under his Excellency's own observation, it only remaining, therefore, for me to bring to his Excellency's favourable notice the services of Lieutenant Le Mesurier's Assistants—Lieutenant Clarke, R.E., Lieutenant Sargeant, R.E., Lieutenant Protheroe, M. S. C., Lieutenant Mainwaring, R.E., Assistant Field Engineers.

The waterworks between Koomaylee and Addigerat being of a permanent character are detailed in the accompanying Report.

Lieutenant Le Mesurier has favoured me with the following remarks upon the water supply between Addigerat and Magdala:—

Beyond Addigerat no stores could be carried, and paved slopes were made into the nullahs for the animals, Norton's tube wells supplying drinking water.

Beyond Antalo, four Norton's tubes and driving apparatus, complete, were carried on six mules as far as Lat. They were then of necessity left behind, and finally reached Magdala on the eve of our departure, enabling us, however, to obtain a supply of pure drinking water, after a want of it for sixty hours.

The water was obtained from the following sources:—

Lake Ashangi, measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles by $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and 17 fathoms in depth, and possessing the peculiarity of having no outlet;

The river Ayangua, rising at Lat, and said by some to be the source of the Tacazze;

The Tellare River was crossed at Dildee;

The Tacazze River was crossed at Miya;

On the Wadela plateau the supply was obtained from the Santara, Goshos, and Fanta Rivers, running into the Jita.

The Jita river, about 2,500 feet below the Wadela and Dalanta plateau, was dry on the advance of the army on 4th of April, and nearly so on its return on 23rd April. The distance in a lee line from one plain to the other is not less than 3 miles, and the journey to accomplish by the King's road nearly 10 miles.

Water was found on Dalanta plain in pools in the small valley.

The formation here apparently was basaltic trap, while on the Wadela it was sandstone.

The Bashelo River, 8 miles north of Fahla, running and knee deep, after several severe thunder showers, was the only water crossed deserving the name of river.

It was the main source of supply to the army when encamped before Magdala.

The water in the small native wells in the immediate vicinity of Magdala was unfit for any purpose, owing to the number of dead animals, &c., and the small supply obtained from the well dug by the troops, though clean, was of a peculiarly bitter taste.

A medical officer assured me that it was not injurious.

Telegraph.

Lieutenant St. John's telegraphic operations have not come under my observation beyond the Passes.

A statistical Report by Lieutenant St. John is contained in the accompanying Report of engineering operations.

I can, however, bear testimony to the value of Lieutenant St. John's telegraph.

I may say the telegraphic communication has been simply invaluable, and it has not failed when most wanted.

I have now to bring to his Excellency's notice that the engineer park, having had the advantage of being formed with great care in Bombay, under Captain Greig's directions, has always been enabled to comply with the requisitions made upon it. It has fulfilled its purpose completely, and, therefore, calls for no further remarks.

Captain Greig has expressed himself well satisfied with the exertions of his assistants—

Lieutenant Saxton, R.E., Assistant Field Engineer; Cornet Dalrymple, Assistant Field Engineer.

In concluding this remaining portion of my Report, it remains for me to bring to his Excellency's favourable notice the services of my Brigade-Major, Captain Charles Goodfellow, V.C., R.E., Field Engineer, which have been so valuable to me by reason of his energy of character and experience in the conduct and management of public works.

Royal Engineers and Sappers and Miners.

Of the Royal Engineers and Madras and Bombay Sappers and Miners, the under-mentioned Companies have been present with the force.

X Company, Royal Engineers.

Madras Sappers and Miners:—

G Company.

H "

K "

Bombay Sappers and Miners:—

No. 1 Company.

No. 2 "

No. 3 "

No. 4 "

The X Company, Royal Engineers, are divided into:—

1. Telegraphist.
2. Signallers.
3. Well-borers.
4. Photographists.

The telegraphists have been employed between Zoolla and Antalo only, under the orders of Lieutenant Puzey, and under the general superintendence of Lieutenant St. John, R.E.

The signallers made themselves useful to the army the whole way from Senafe to Magdala, and their services were more especially valuable whilst the army crossed the ravines of the Takazze, the Jiddah, and the Bashilo, and on the advance on Magdala, in communicating with distant points relative to placing guns in position.

His Excellency is aware of the services of the officer under whom these men worked so willingly and efficiently.

The well-borers made themselves generally useful on the line of march from Koomaylee to close to Magdala, proving the efficacy of the American pumps as applicable to the line of march of an army. The operations of these men were judiciously directed by Lieutenant Le Mesurier, R.E.

The photographers have completed a series of views from Zoolla to Magdala, illustrating all points of interest on the line of march of the army. It is to be regretted that rather more professional and artistic knowledge was not brought to bear on this subject. Some beautiful effects of light and shade have been lost, owing to the views not having been taken at the proper time of day.

Major Pritchard, R.E., commanded the 10th Company Royal Engineers, and was with the photographers throughout the Expedition.

Madras Sappers.

Major H. N. D. Prendergast, V.C., R.E., commanded the detachment, consisting of G., H., and K. Companies Staff Officer; with the detachment, Captain Foord.

The G. Company* have been posted at Zoulla and Koomaylee during the whole campaign. The services performed by this company on the public works at Zoulla, on the railway, and on the Koomaylee water works, have been excellent.

The sepoys of this company excavated a well on the railway line, 85 feet in depth, without lining of any kind, and proved themselves very skilful workmen.

I have much pleasure in recording the good services rendered by Lieutenant Morris, commanding

* G.—Lieutenant Morris, R.E.; Lieutenant Protheroe, S.C.; Lieutenant Mainwaring, R.E.

this company, in superintending the water arrangements at Koomaylee. These services have proved most beneficial to the Transport Train Establishment at that post.

Lieutenants Prothero and Mainwaring have been before mentioned.

The H. Company* have been employed during the whole campaign on the public works at Zoolla, and have been most industrious.

This company has shown itself ever ready and willing to undertake any work required of it.

Lieutenant Pennycuik, R.E., commanding the H. Company, appears to have conducted the duties of his position in an efficient manner.

Lieutenant Cunningham, R.E., has been employed on detached duty at Antalo.

K. Company.†—This company commenced work in the Senafe Pass after a short stay at Zoolla, and afterwards, when joined by head-quarters, improved the track route between Antalo and Magdala, rendering it suitable for laden mules and elephants, and were present at the action of Arojee, and taking of Magdala.

Captain Elliott, N.I., Commanding, Lieutenant Bird being Subaltern officer.

Lieutenant Coaker, R.E., was detached from the company on its arrival at Zoolla, and worked with the 4th Company Bombay Sappers throughout the campaign.

Bombay Sappers and Miners.

With Head Quarters, Captain Macdonnell, R.E., commanding ; Lieutenant Merewether, R.E., Adjutant.

No. 1 Company‡ arrived at Zoolla in October from Aden. After a short time this company were sent to the Sooroo Defile, and worked on the roads—the passes—till December, when it marched to Senafe, and worked on the ghaut till the end of January, when it was removed on to Addigerat working on the road between Senafe and Addigerat, more particularly on the Kersabba Ghaut, for which pieces of road great credit is due.

The Company then proceeded to Antalo, and were employed in constructing the telegraph, returning to the Sooroo Pass in time to repair the damage done during the month of May, and remained there on duty till all the troops had cleared out.

This Company was commanded by Lieutenant Newport, and I consider they did very efficient service under their excellent officer's command.

Lieutenant Osborne, R.E., was attached to this Company in January, and subsequently performed the duties of Adjutant from January to May during the time Lieutenant Merewether was absent.

No. 2 Company.§—This Company arrived in this country with head-quarters early in December, and after a short stay at Zoolla, worked on the Senafe Pass, and principally on the Sooroo Defile, for which the Company deserves great praise. The Company was then pushed on to Antalo, and thence to Magdala, assisting in the road making, and were present at the action of the 10th of April, and capture of Magdala on the 13th.

Captain Sturt, R.E., commanded, and also worked this Company, an arrangement which was most beneficial to the interests of the Company.

No. 3 Company.¶—This Company worked for two months at Zoolla, on the stone pier; the men were employed eight hours a-day. They were then removed up into the Pass; were worked on the Senafe Ghaut. The work between Senafe and Addigerat, and between Addigerat and Antalo. Assisted in road-work between Antalo and Magdala, and was present in the action of the 10th and taking of Magdala on the 13th April.

Captain Leslie, S.C., commanded, and the Company worked under the orders of Lieutenant Jopp, R.E.

4th Company.¶¶—Worked two months at Zoolla, on the stone pier, eight hours a-day; were then employed at Lower Sooroo, and subsequently in the Senafe Ghaut. Assisted in making the road between Senafe and Addigerat, and Addigerat and Antalo. Also were employed generally in road making between Antalo and Magdala, and were present in the action of the 10th, and capture of Magdala on the 13th April.

Lieutenant Leacock, S.C., commanded this Company, working under the directions of Lieutenant Coaker, R.E.

Captain Macdonnell commanded the Bombay Sappers, three Companies, and Major Prendergast, V.C., the K. Company Madras Sappers and Miners during the action of the 10th April.

Major Pritchard, R.E., being senior officer of Engineers with troops, commanded on the 13th at the capture of Magdala, the following details:—X. Company Royal Engineers; K. Corps Madras Sappers; 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Corps Bombay Sappers; the distribution of Engineer officers and men being under Captain W. W. Goodfellow, second in command of Royal Engineers with the force.

ST. CLAIR WILKINS,

Lieutenant-Colonel, R.E.,

Commanding Engineers, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

* H.—Lieutenant Pennycuik, Commanding; Lieutenant Cunningham, 1st Officer.

† K.—Captain Elliott, No. 1.; Lieutenant Bird, S.C.; Lieutenant Coaker, R.E.

‡ No. 1. Company.—Lieutenant Newport, S.C., Commanding; Lieutenant Osborne, R.E., Superior Officer.

§ No. 2. Company.—Captain Sturt, R.E., Commanding.

¶ No. 3. Company.—Captain Leslie, S.C., Commanding.

¶¶ No. 4. Company.—Lieutenant Leacock, S.C., Commanding.

Enclosure 15 in No. 1.

PROGRESS REPORT of ENGINEERING OPERATIONS carried out by the Engineer Department, Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, from October 1867 to May 1868.

No.	Name and Locality of Work.	Date of Commencement.	Work Executed.	Date of Completion.	Remarks.
	ANNESLEY BAY, ZOOOLA.				
1	Stone Pier - (For landing troops, elephants, horses, transport train animals, and for general traffic.)	Oct. 1867 -	Feet. Length of pier - - 943 Length of head - - 156 Breadth of head - 92 General breadth - 27 Depth of water at head at low-water springs - - - 7 The stone pier since its first completion has been raised nearly 2 ft. in height over its whole surface. The piling and platform head has also been added.	Jan. 1868 -	This pier is built of dry rubble stone brought from the opposite side of the bay. The increased width of the head provides accommodation for a condenser and for landing and embarking purposes. The head of the pier is piled, and a platform connects the piles and stone pier. Fender piles protect the pier all round in deep water from damage. The south side of pier as well as the whole of the head has a wooden coping for protection. Rails for the railway traverse the whole length of the pier, and a siding is also provided at the head. Stores have been delivered at the head, being at once placed on railway trucks, have been run up to the different depôts. Troops for embarkation are taken by rail to the pier head, where they at once embark on the lighters, and are towed out to the ships by steam tugs. The land portion of the pier is constructed of piles driven 10 feet apart, strong sheeting backed behind the piles supporting the earth filling. The pile pier is constructed on piers of four piles each at 10 feet apart, central distances. The head of pier and portion in deep water is well protected by strong fender piles, placed one foot from the pier and five feet apart. A double line of rails traverses the whole length of the pier.
2	Pile Pier - - (For Commissariat only.)	Dec. 1867 -	Length of embanked portion of pier - 380 Length of pile pier to artificial island of stone - - - 640 Length of stone island 114 Length of pile pier island - - - 70 Total length of pier 1,204 Breadth of pier - 30 Breadth of stone island 65 Depth of water at head at low springs - 8 Depth of water at head at high-water springs 13		
3	Condenser Island	Nov. 1867 -	An artificial island of stone, 80 ft. in length and 60 ft. in breadth, piled on the eastern side, with wooden platform to piles.	April 1868 -	A 4,000 gallon condenser erected and working on the island.

PROGRESS REPORT OF ENGINEERING OPERATIONS, &c.—continued.

No.	Name and Locality of Work.	Date of Commencement.	Work Executed.	Date of Completion.	Remarks.
4	Water Shoot	Dec. 1867	The water shoot, 168 square inches in section, has been made 770 ft. in length and fixed on trestles above the sea, averaging in height 13 ft.	Jan. 7, 1868	For conveying water from the condenser on the island to the tank depôt on shore.
5	Sea Wall and Embankment.	Nov. 1867	Rubble stone sea wall, averaging in height 6 ft., in length - 917 Sea wall faced with biscuit barrels filled with sand and supported with sand-bags - 850 These sea walls are well backed with earth.	April 1868	Constructed to keep the sea out of the immediate landing place, to shorten the piers, and to avoid the necessity of filling a large reclamation. Sluices let out rain water.
6	Reclamation	Nov. 1867	16,000 s. yds. raised 2 feet. 2,333 „ „ 6 inches.	Feb. 1868	Partial reclamations made at lowest levels to guide the drainage.
7	Grave Yard	Feb. 1868	Ground enclosed with a short wooden railing, 318 running feet. 100 wooden crosses of stout teak, made for numbering the graves.	April 1868.	
8	Buildings (teak framing), commissariat.	Oct. 1867	1 shed, plank roof and walling - 120 × 20 1 do. do. - 300 × 20 1 do., corrugated iron roof and plank walls - 300 × 20 1 do., mat walls - 270 × 20	Dec. 1867 Jan. 1868	Teak-framed sheds for Commissariat, 1,000 running feet in length, 20 feet in breadth.
	Enquirer's Office	Oct. 1867	1 do., planked roof and walls 28 × 13	Dec. 1867.	
	Condenser Island	Jan. 1868	1 do., planked roof and walling 15 × 15	March 1868.	
	Over Condenser Stone Pier.	Jan. 1868	1 do., planked roof and walling 34 × 24	Feb. 1868.	
	Post Office	Dec. 1867	Teak-framed shed with plank roof and walls, and a second corrugated iron roof 6 inches above planks - 28 × 13 Additional room of rafters and matting added - 30 × 13	March 1868.	
	Ice House	March 1868	Roof and walls of deal planking, 16 ft. in height 30 × 20	April 1868.	
	Shed over Water Tanks.	Feb. 1868	Shed - 36½ × 17	March 1868.	
	Sentry Boxes	March 1868	2 large - 12 × 6 10 small - 4 × 4 (plank roofed and 8 ft. in height.)	March 1868.	
	Sheds. Rafters, reed mats. Walls and roof thatched with jowlies.				
	Commissariat	-	3 sheds - 120 × 20	Dec. 1867 to May 1868.	
	Land Transport	-	6 do. - 120 × 20		
	Ordnance	-	3 do. - 120 × 20		
	Hospital	-	2 do. - 120 × 20		
	Engineer Department.	-	4 do. - 120 × 20		
	Embarkation, Pendall.	-	1 do. - 200 × 20		

PROGRESS REPORT OF ENGINEERING OPERATIONS, &c.—continued.

No.	Name and Locality of Work.	Date of Commencement.	Work executed.	Date of Completion.	Remarks.
	General Hospital	March 1868	Teak framing with plank, walls, mat, and thatched roof, glazed windows, outside dimensions 340 × 46 feet. Height of walls 17 feet.	April 1868	This building consists of fever wards 99 feet, 99 feet, 95 feet, and 22 feet respectively, by 22 feet in breadth and 17 feet in height; a verandah 12 feet wide encircles the whole building.
	Hospital Quarters	- - -	Two quarters containing rooms 16 × 16 × 12 feet each, and 16 × 8 × 12 feet. Two bath rooms and verandahs 8 × 8 feet. One quarter containing rooms 14 × 14 × 12 feet, 14 × 8 feet, 8 × 8 feet. Two quarters containing rooms and verandahs 16 × 16 × 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ feet in breadth, front and rear 8 feet. One cook house 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 9 feet, corrugated iron roof and walls. Dead house 12 × 12 × 10 feet.		
	Reservoirs	April 1868	One tank 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 11 × 5 feet. One tank 52 × 11 × 6 feet, constructed of strong wooden framing planked and lined with zinc.		
			Permanent Way.		
	RAILWAY, ZOOLA TO KOOMAYLEE.	Dec. 1867 -	Main line -	Mls. yds. 10 623	May 1868 - Gauge of railway 5 feet 6 inches. Five descriptions of rails used. 1. Flanged 30 lb., too light a rail. 2. Flanged 40 lb., fish-plated; third best. 3. Flanged 45 lb., fish-plated; second best. 4. Flanged 45 lb., Kurra- chee, not fish plated, joint chairs bad. 5. Flanged 50 lb., double headed, with chairs, best.
			Branch line -	0 866	
			Sidings, &c.		
			Stone pier head	93	
			" tail	100	
			Double Line.		
			Commissariat pier -	555	
			Siding, cement shed -	82	
			Siding, Zoola Station -	60	
			Pioneers Well Station.		
			Loop line -	586	
			Sick siding -	154	
			Commissariat Depôts.		
			Loop line at No. 1 -	224	
			Loop line at No. 2 -	170	
			Koomaylee Terminus.		
			Loop line -	112	1 376
					12 105

PROGRESS REPORT OF ENGINEERING OPERATIONS, &c.—continued.

No.	Name and Locality of Work.	Date of Commencement.	Work executed.			Date of Completion.	Remarks.
	RAILWAY.						Construction of Bridges.
	Bridges and Drains.		Number of Drains.	Width of each Opening.	Depth of Bed from bottom of Girder.		Iron girders, the gauge of the railway apart from centre to centre, supported on wooden uprights, braced and strutted above ground, joined by sills deeply sunk below ground. Sleepers secured by being notched to fit girders; girders further secured from movement by tie rods and straps to uprights. Supports to girders placed well into embankment, so as to be in great measure independent of wing walls, which are of dry rubble.
	No. 1. Bridge over Huddas.						
	No. 2.			Ft. ins.	Ft. ins.		
	No. 3.		6	11 6	4 9		
	No. 4.		2	10 0	2 6		
	No. 5.		2	16 0	1 6		
	No. 6. Komaylee Torrent.		2	20 0	7 6		
	No. 7.		2	10 6	5 6		
	No. 8.		3	17 4	12 0		
	Total, 8 bridges.		3	15 6	4 0		
			1	20 0	2 10		
	26 drains.		Number of each Sort.	Number of Openings.	Width of each Opening.		Construction of Drains.
					Ft. ins.		Two marked *, of similar construction to bridges. The other wooden uprights at sleeper intervals, uprights let well into sills, buried below ground, wings retained by stout planking, and, where necessary, rough rubble.
			3	3	2 0		
			5	2	2 0		
			2	3	6 0		
			2	1	2 0		
			7	4	12 6		
			1	1	2 8		
			1	1	1 6		
			2	3	2 3		
			1	6	1 9		
			1	5	3 7½		
			1	2	16 6		
			1	1	2 3		
			1	12	3 0		
	Station at Zoola	- - -	Platform, 150 feet long - Office, 30 × 17 feet. Shed for shelter, with seats, 93½ × 16½ feet. Shed for stores, and carpenter's workshop. A well (salt) with pump fixed for watering station and neighbourhood. Pointsman's hut.			- - -	Platform of convenient height for trucks in use, horizontal planking against vertically buried sleepers support the platform embankment; office entirely built of biscuit cases obtained from commissariat; shed of Aden material.
	Station at Pioneers Well.	- - -	Water supplied to engines for the Pioneer Wells, 50 feet deep.			- - -	Well is 50 feet deep, a tank is raised 30 feet above that, the water is raised into this tank, and the engines at a distance of about 900 feet are by means of piping watered by gravity only; piping is 2 inches diameter.
	Watering station at Willans Bridge over Koomaylee Torrent.	- - -	Well dug for watering, 67 feet deep.			- - -	Well is close to line, and engines are watered by a force pump from tubs round the well kept ready filled.
	Station at "Koomaylee Plain."	- - -	Siding for Commissariat, well dug 87 feet deep, and water supplied to engines from distance of 1,200 feet. Stand pipe with cock for drinking.			- - -	The well water is forced into a raised reservoir 114 feet from well, and is led by 4-inch piping 1,200 feet, when a stand pipe feeds the engines.

PROGRESS REPORT OF ENGINEERING OPERATIONS, &c.—continued.

No.	Name and Locality of Work.	Date of Commencement.	Work executed.	Date of Completion.	Remarks.
	Station at "Koomaylee Terminus."	- - -	Two sheds each 120 × 20 feet. Wooden platform. Waiting shed for officers. Latrines for troops. Ground cleared sufficient to parade a regiment in open column.		
	Railway Telegraph.	- - -	Stations established at Zoola,— Pioneers Wells and Koomaylee Terminus.		
	Zoola to	24 Dec. 1867	Zoola to Koomaylee - 12 Miles.		Lieutenant St. John, R.E., commenced work with half a company of Madras Sappers, and some Shohoes. From the 6th mile from Zoola to Rayrayguddy supports cut from mimosa. Jungle only used. The 12th Jan. the Madras Sappers were replaced by a company of 23rd Punjab Pioneers under Lieut. Paterson. Posts for the line from Rayrayguddy to Senafe and six miles beyond cut from jungle by 33rd Regiment. Then 11 miles of Indian bamboo, and remaining 21 miles on juniper poles purchased from Abyssinians at Focado and Adigerat.
		8 Jan. 1868	Koomaylee to Sooroo - 14		
		20 Jan. 1868	Sooroo to Undul - 13		
	Electric Telegraph.	1 Feb. 1868	Undul to Rayrayguddy 16		
		19 Feb. 1868	Rayrayguddy to Senafe 8		
		9 Feb. 1868	Senafe to Goon-Goon 13		
		15 Feb. 1868	Goon-Goon to Adigerat and beyond - 8		
		24 Feb. 1868	2nd line (railway) - 4		
			Total miles - 113		
	ROADS.				
	Cart road from Zoola to Senafe. Senafe (Post No. 2.)	Nov. 1867 -	A cart road 63 miles in length, ascending 7,464 feet.	31 Jan. 1868	Principal works in the rocky gorges of the Sooroo and Rayrayguddy defiles and Senafe Ghaut, where the road is in hillside cutting, and rises 700 feet in 7,000.
	Senafe to Adigerat.	1 Feb. 1868	A good cart road, 37 miles	26 Jan. 1868	Principal work the Goon-Goon and Kursaba Ghauts, elevation 200 and 400 feet respectively.
	Addigerat to Antalo (Post No. 3.)	5 Feb. 1868	This portion of the route of the army, though not used for cart traffic, was traversed by the 12-pr. Armstrong battery on wheels. Distance, 78½ miles.	1 Mar. 1868	Principal works, ravine between Addigerat and Mai Waheez, descent to Dolo, and across the hills between Eikhullet and Antalo.
	Antalo to Lat.	27 Feb. 1868	Good cleared track for mules and elephants. Distance, 73 miles.	20 Mar. 1868	Principal works: the Alajee pass, and the hills between Atalla and Mukhan. Also between Mukhan and Ashangee, and between Messageata and Lat.
	Lat to Santara	- - -	Good cleared track for mules and elephants. Distance, 56 miles.	March 1868	Principal works: descent to Marowa, and across the hills between Marowa and Dildee. Also the ascent of the Wofjat hill leading to Wandatch, passage of the Tacazze, and steep ascent (3,000) feet to Santara on the Madela plateau.

PROGRESS OF ENGINEERING OBSERVATIONS, &c.—continued.

No.	Name and Locality of Work.	Date of Commencement.	Work executed.	Date of Completion.	Remarks.
	Santara to Arcundee.	- - - -	Good cleared track for mules and elephants. Distance 30 miles.	April 1868	Very little work required on this portion of the route.
	Arcundee to (Minaboo on the) Dalanta Plateau.	April 1868	Ditto ditto ditto Distance 16 miles.	April 1868	Much heavy work was spared the troops, owing to Theodore's road across the valley of the Jidda being adopted as a suitable route for the army to gain the Dalanta Plateau.
	Dalanta Plateau (Minaboo) to Arogee and Magdala.	9 April 1868	Ditto ditto ditto Distance 14 miles.	13 April 1868	The above remarks are also applicable to the route from Dalanta Plateau to Arogee and Magdala, for no work was required across the plateau, and Theodore's road from the plateau to the Magdala Amba, over the Arogee flat, was adopted.
	Zoola to Senafé by the Huddas Pass.	23 Feb. 1868	Senafé to Tekonda; 13 miles over rough country opened as a mule track; also from Zoola to Humhammo, 21 miles, cleared as a cart road.	- - -	This was intended as an alternative line from Zoola to the highlands, by the Huddas river, but had to be abandoned owing to two causes. The working parties furnished by the troops being required with the advance force, were withdrawn from the Senafé end of the route, whilst the whole of the working party being struck down by malarious fever at Humhammo, the Zoola end of the road had to be abandoned.
WATER SUPPLY.					
	Koomaylee	23 Dec. 1867	4 Dipping wells. 2 Norton's tube wells. 4 Portable hand pumps. 4 Owen's double pumps. 1 Bastier 2½-in. chain pump. Troughing, 2,300 gallons capacity. Reservoir, 3,000 gal. ditto. Guard walls. Toe walls.	25 May 1868	The watering was carried on steadily till the flood of evening of 19th May. The wells, with one exception, were filled with clayey mud. The troughs have been re-erected, wells cleared out, and pumps refixed. Discharge of pumps, 10,000 gallons per hour. Water 16 to 18 feet below surface. Its temperature 96°.
	Upper Sooroo	22 Jan. 1868	1 Norton's tube well 18,000 galls. of water stored. Troughing, 300 gallons capacity. New watering road. Tank for Shohoes.	14 Feb. 1868	Entirely carried away on the evening of the 19th May. 2 Portable hand pumps and 4 galvanized iron troughs supply the wants of troops. Water on the surface.
	Undul Wells	3 Jan. 1868	2 Norton's tube wells. 1 Bastier 2½-in. chain pump. 2 Dipping wells. Stone and lime well, 32 ft. deep. Troughing, 1,500 gallons capacity.	23 Feb. 1868	Discharge of pumps, 2,500 gallons per hour. Two portable hand pumps have been erected for use of troops returning. Water 25 to 30 feet below surface. Its temperature 89°.
	Hindertá	12 Feb. 1868	3 wells; 30 to 40 have been dug.	23 Feb. 1868	No water. Water supply in a rocky pass, ½ mile to east, improved.

PROGRESS OF ENGINEERING OBSERVATIONS, &c.—*continued.*

No.	Name and Locality of Work.	Date of Commencement.	Work executed.	Date of Completion.	Remarks.
	Rayrayguddy.	2 Feb. 1868	Troughing, 350 gallons capacity.	14 Feb. 1868	Supplied by gravitation from springs in the rock.
	Senafe Ghaut -	14 Feb. 1868	2 Norton's tube wells. Tank, capacity 300 gallons. Road cleared.	18 Feb. 1868	Supplied by a spring.
	Senafe -	4 Feb. 1868	14 Norton's tube wells. Aqueduct 250 ft. long. Troughing, 700 gallons capacity. 1 Bastier 2½-in. chain pump.	23 Feb. 1868	Ground on which the works stood submerged by the flood on 29th March, and sources of the water fouled by the drainage from the Transport lines; an objection to the position of these lines was made on 3d Feb. 1868.
	Senafe -	30 Mar. 1868	Re-erection of Bastier 2½. Ditto, Norton's tube wells. Ditto, Troughing, 96 ft. long. Large cuts for the easier flow of storm water. Protecting bank built.	31 Mar. 1868	Moved to a new position higher up stream. Irrigating channel.
	Goon-Goon -	18 Feb. 1868	1 Norton's tube well. Troughing, 100 gallons capacity.	10 Mar. 1868	Supply regulated by sluice from an old irrigating channel.
	Focado -	19 Feb. 1868	5 Norton's tube wells. 2 Owen's portable pumps. Troughing, 400 gallons capacity. Native well. Sheep pond.	10 Mar. 1868	Water 4 ft. to 6 ft. below surface.
	Addigerat -	22 Feb. 1868	2 Norton's tube wells. Tank, 7,000 galls. capacity. Troughing, 300 galls. do. Stream strongly dammed.	10 Mar. 1868	Supply regulated by a sluice gate. Cuts and waste weirs to carry off the storm waters.

ST. CLAIR WILKINS,

Lieut.-Col. Commanding Engineer,

A. E. F.

No. 2.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
14th May 1868.

RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward for your information translations of the two Amharic communications which, as was mentioned in my Despatch No. 22. of the 14th ultimo, were addressed to me by the late King Theodorus after the defeat of his army by our troops at Arogee.

2. These contained nothing, as it appeared to me, calculated to make me modify the resolution I had formed of insisting at all hazards on his surrender. On the contrary, they rather confirmed the impression produced by all that I had learned regarding him, namely, that in desiring our friendship he identified that idea with support from us against his enemies, and other conditions which it was out of the question that we could comply with.

3. It is also necessary, if we would avoid acquiring from the perusal of these letters an erroneous conception of Theodore's disposition, to read them less in the light of the language which he holds in them than in that of the actions and tenor of his past life. Thus it will not be forgotten that, while they were being written, the mangled remains of at least 200 of his countrymen who had been butchered by his order, and some of them with his own hand, were exposed to view at the bottom of the rock from which they had been thrown. The treacherous manner in which, only a few days before the appearance of our army, he plundered the peasants of the districts round Magdalla, who, trusting to his solemn promise of protection, had always been faithful to him, may be taken as a further illustration of the late King's real character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 2.

TRANSLATION of the two Communications addressed by King Theodorus to his Excellency Sir R. Napier, on the 11th and 12th April 1868.

No. I.

Delivered by Lieut. Prideaux and the Dajaz Alamie on 11th April 1868.

Note, without superscription, seal, signature, or date. Along with it was returned the Commander-in-Chief's letter of that morning, in which the king was called upon to submit.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, one God in His Trinity and His Unity,

Kassa, whose trust is Christ, thus speaks:

O people of Abyssinia, will it always be thus that you flee before the enemy when I myself, by the power of God, go not forth with you to encourage you.

Believing that all power had been given to me, I had established my christian people in this heathen spot. In my city are multitudes whom I have fed: maidens protected and maidens unprotected; women whom yesterday made widows; and aged parents who have no children. God has given you the power. See that you forsake not these people. It is a heathen land.

My countrymen have turned their backs on me and have hated me, because I imposed tribute on them, and sought to bring them under military discipline. You have prevailed against me by means of people brought into a state of discipline.

My followers who loved me were frightened by one bullet, and fled in spite of my commands. When you defeated them I was not with the fugitives.

Believing myself to be a great Lord I gave you battle; but, by reason of the worthlessness of my artillery, all my pains were as nought.

The people of my country, by taunting me with having embraced the religion of the Franks, and by saying that I had become a Musalman, and in ten different ways, had provoked me to anger against them. Out of what I have done of evil towards them may God bring good. His will be done. I had intended, if God had so decreed, to conquer the whole world; and it was my desire to die if my purpose could not be fulfilled. Since the day of my birth till now no man has dared to lay hand on me. Whenever my soldiers began to waver in battle it was mine to arise and rally them. Last night the darkness hindered me from doing so.

You people who have passed the night in joy, may God not do unto you as he has done to me. I had hoped, after subduing all my enemies in Abyssinia, to lead my army against Jerusalem, and expel from it the Turks. A warrior who has dandled strong men in his arms like infants will never suffer himself to be dandled in the arms of others.

No. II.

Delivered on April 12th, by Mr. Bender and the King's Scribe.

Note.—Sealed with Royal Seal.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God :

The King of the Kings, Teodoras :

May it reach the beloved servant of the great Queen of England.

I am writing to you without being able to address you by name, because our intercourse has arisen so unexpectedly.

I am grieved at having sent you my writing of yesterday, and at having quarreled with you my friend. When I saw your manner of fighting, and the discipline of your army, and when my people failed to execute my orders, then I was consumed with sorrow to think that although I killed and punished my soldiers, yet they would not return to the battle. Whilst the fire of jealousy burned within me, Satan came to me in the night and tempted me to kill myself with my own pistol. But reflecting that God would be angry with me if I were to go in this manner and leave my army without a protector, I sent to you in a hurry, lest I might die and all things be in confusion before my message should reach you. After my messenger had gone, I cocked my pistol, and putting it in my mouth, pulled the trigger. Though I pulled and pulled yet it would not go off. But when my people rushed upon me, and laid hold of the pistol, it was discharged, just as they had drawn it from my mouth. God having thus signified to me that I should not die, but live, I sent to you Mr. Rassam that same evening, that your heart might be made easy.

To-day is Easter, be pleased to let me send a few cows to you.

The reason of my returning to you your letter yesterday was that I believed at that time that we should meet one another in heaven, but never on earth.

I let the night pass without sending for the body of my friend Feetararee Gabre, because I thought that after my death we would both be buried together ; but, since I have lived, be pleased to allow him to be buried.

You require from me all the Europeans, even to my best friend, Mr. Waldemaier. Well, be it so. They shall go. But now that we are friends you must not leave me without artizans, as I am a lover of the mechanical arts.

Note.—The language of the above letters in the original Amharic is difficult, and the meaning in some places obscure. They have been translated as above by me, from the rendering of Captain Speedy and Mr. Munzinger, who, besides knowing Amharic themselves, took the assistance of Mr. Flad, and several native scribes, in interpreting the originals.

Camp, Lake Ashangee,
May 5th, 1868.

W. TWEEDIE, Lieutenant,
Political Secretary.

No. 3.

No. 27. Sir ROBERT NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
Camp, Zula, 9th June 1868.

RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR,

I HAVE the honour to communicate the following particulars regarding the murder of the late Mr. Dufton of the Intelligence Department, which was announced in my telegram of the 30th ultimo.

2. Mr. Dufton having survived the wounds inflicted on him several hours during which he retained full consciousness, there was an opportunity of ascertaining from himself the circumstances of the attack made upon him. It is satisfactory to know that everything was done to render his last hours less painful which was possible in the hopeless nature of the case. Surgical aid reached him very soon after he was found lying on the road in a dying state, and he was also attended by the Rev. J. Fennell.

3. It appears from Mr. Dufton's own deposition, as taken down by Assistant-Surgeon Knapp, 25th Regiment, N.I., that he left Undall Wells, which is situated about half way between Senafeh and Zoulla at half-past 5 p.m. on the 28th ultimo. He himself was riding, and his baggage was carried along with him on another mule. His only attendants were his butler, who was a native of India, and a muleteer.

4. Mr. Dufton was proceeding by the regular route to Sooroo, not on any special duty, but simply on his way towards the coast. It is much to be regretted that he disregarded the stringent orders in force against any one marching without an escort. Possibly he thought that his position allowed him a certain degree of latitude in arranging his own movements. No doubt also his having travelled a good deal in this country, and his being so well known as he was amongst the Shohos, had made him less careful of his safety than he otherwise would have been.

5. About three miles from Undall Wells several small ravines, opening into the great pass through which the road lies, give to people from the mountains a facility for attacking travellers. On reaching this spot, Mr. Dufton suddenly heard the shouting of five or six men, whom he had not seen in passing along, although they had now started up close in rear. He had no sooner turned round than a spear thrown at him by one of his assailants entered his side. Before he could dismount from his horse, or draw his revolver, and when he had just pulled the spear out of the wound it had inflicted, he received a sword cut, which nearly severed his right wrist, and his assailants then closing in on him, he was soon brought to the ground. Even after that many blows were aimed at him. He was able to ward some of these with his hands; but a deep cut across the knee disabled him so that he could not rise from the ground.

6. The men who had attacked him then proceeded to plunder his baggage. It is pretty certain that this was the object they had all along. If they had been actuated by revenge, or a desire to take life, they would not have left him lying on the ground as they did, in possession of consciousness, but would have despatched him.

7. Mr. Dufton's Indian servant would appear to have been killed at once, because he was afterwards found dead close to his master; and the latter states he had not seen him during the attack.

8. The muleteer made his escape from the spot, and ran into Undall Wells, with the news. He had received several wounds on the head and body. A medical officer left Undall Wells at once and brought in Mr. Dufton who had however been discovered in the meantime by a passer by, on whose report Mr. Jesse, the naturalist attached to the expedition, had already proceeded from Undall Wells to the place indicated.

9. There was never any hope of Mr. Dufton's recovery, and he expired the following morning at a quarter-past nine o'clock.

10. He had been able to render in a quiet and unobtrusive way no inconsiderable service to the expedition, chiefly in the important work of assisting the Commissariat to purchase supplies from the people. His character had gained him the respect of every one he was associated with, and when his remains were interred in a suitable spot at Undall Wells, it was felt by us all that the force had lost a deserving and useful officer.

11. The migratory life led by the Shohos inhabiting the mountains on either side of the Pass makes it very difficult to obtain the usual evidence against perpetrators of acts of this kind, as there are no villages which can be searched. A detachment was, however, sent to examine the neighbourhood of the spot where Mr. Dufton had been found. They came upon portions of his plundered property strewn for a distance of a mile and a half along the path leading from it into the mountains by which his murderers seemed to have retired. A party of armed Shohos described as numbering at least twelve, was met by one portion of the detachment. They fled at the sight of our soldiers, and only one of the gang allowed himself to be taken. He was of course brought into Undall Wells, but although carefully examined by Brigadier General Merewether, C.B., no information was obtained from him regarding the murder. Next morning he was sent to act as guide to a party of soldiers which I had ordered to proceed for the purpose of examining the adjoining mountains. On the way he assaulted the Sepoys who had charge of him, wounding one of them very severely on the head with a large stone, and temporarily disabling two others. When about to attack a fourth, he was shot dead by another man of the guard.

12. In conclusion, I regret to say that the utmost endeavours have failed to discover the individuals who were engaged in this outrage. There is no doubt, however, that they belonged to some of the numerous predatory tribes in the vicinity. The Naeeb of Arkeeko has suggested that the deed was committed by a band of Shohos of the different tribes whose members we have had occasion to punish as thieves, during our occupation of the Pass. In a community where it is thought even a praiseworthy act, under certain circumstances, to have resort to manslaughter, this idea is natural enough. But considering that Mr. Dufton was not murdered on the spot, which it would have been very easy to do, that he was well known to have a considerable sum of money in his portmanteau, and that the road leading in the direction probably taken by his murderers, was found strewn with his plundered goods, I am inclined to think that robbery, not vengeance, had prompted the deed.

I have &c.,

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander in Chief.

No. 4.

Sir ROBERT NAPIER to the SECRETARY OF STATE for INDIA.

No. 30.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,

RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR,

Camp Zoulla, 9th June 1868.

I HAVE the honour to report the circumstances which led to my presenting Prince Kassa of Tigreh, on the part of Her Majesty the Queen, with a battery of mountain guns and mortars; and also smooth-bore muskets for one regiment.

2. I need not enter into the causes of my having found myself, on reaching Zoulla, compelled to look to local resources for the supply of Commissariat and Transport requirements, to an extent which I had not intended, and which these resources proved very inadequate to meet. All that I could then do was to try to develop to the utmost such sources of supply as were within reach. It will be remembered how important time was to us, and that a fortnight's delay, or even less, might have made the difference between the campaign being terminated before the rains or not. Owing in part to the ravages of locusts, the resources of Abyssinia had fallen so low that special efforts were needed before we could purchase what little food it contained. This was one of other strong reasons which made it so desirable to establish friendly relations with Prince Kassa. How that was done has already been reported. During my second interview with him at Maiadeeab I saw that the grain which he had the day before promised to collect for us would be furnished, with all the more certainty, if he had cause to expect some tangible acknowledgment of his services. I therefore informed him that if he proved himself a true friend of Her Majesty, he would be rewarded in a way that would be useful to him in defending himself against his enemies, and that, although I could give no promise, yet I hoped guns suitable for mountain warfare would be given to him by my Sovereign.

3. The effect of this assurance on the prospects of the Expedition has been alluded to in former despatches. Large quantities of wheat and barley, amounting to nearly 10,000 dollars worth—were soon afterwards sent to me as a gift by the Prince himself, at a time when every load of flour was valuable to us; and the far more important supplies which, with his help, we were able to purchase in the province of Enderta, during our halt at Antalo, enabled us to advance beyond that position on the day we did. Therefore the assurance which I conveyed to him at Maiadeeab has been as fully justified by the result as it seemed to me expedient at the time it was given.

Moreover, the cordiality and completeness with which Prince Kassa entered into my views by appointing some of his confidential chiefs as commissioners, with the commanders of our troops in Tigreh, tended greatly to secure the peacefulness of our intercourse with the people.

4. But there is another view of this subject which has to be mentioned. I think the best hope of Abyssinia enjoying peace lies in its provinces remaining partitioned between at least two distinct rulers. Many circumstances, independently of the great size of the country itself, and the geographical barriers which subdivide it, lead me to hold this view. It is to be feared that any attempt on the part of one chief to take possession of all Abyssinia would not only lead to a long civil war, but would still leave room for a state of anarchy and disorder, if its object were attained. Looking at the positions of the two men now governing Tigreh and Lasta, respectively, it does not appear to me likely that Kassa will ever attack Gobazeh, unless carried away by too powerful chiefs, and only too probable that the ambition of Gobazeh will extend itself to Tigreh. Indeed, I suspect that one of the latter's motives in not coming to meet me was lest I should require from him a promise that he would not invade Tigreh, which promise he was not prepared to make, or at all events to keep, and which he feared he might afterwards incur our resentment by breaking.

5. We had released from Magdalla four Tigreh chiefs, who had enjoyed influence in their own country, under a former *régime*, and I felt that not to have restored them to their homes would have exposed them to danger of destruction by the Gallas, or have driven them to seek refuge with Gobazeh, who would have found in them useful agents in any designs against Kassa. In carrying them back with me, as I therefore did to Tigreh, I knew that, though this course involved the lesser of two dangers, it might in the end prove a source of trouble to Prince Kassa. All that I could do towards securing for him their allegiance was attempted. During a durbah at Senafeh they solemnly took oath before the Prince that they would be faithful to him, and Kassa as solemnly promised in return to afford them his protection. But this ceremony might or might not have the effect of restraining them from intrigues against him. Therefore my having restored them to a place in his dominions seemed another reason why I should strengthen him against insurrection on their part.

6. The above are the principal considerations which, in addition to a wish to help him to defend himself against enemies from without, seemed to warrant me in bestowing these arms on Kassa. To leave a ruler whom we had found just struggling into power, and whose first use of that power had been for our assistance, exposed to pressing dangers when we could materially add to his means of self defence by a gift which was as nothing compared with our own resources, was a course which, as it appeared to me, would have been foreign to the characteristic policy of Great Britain towards weaker States, even if I had not formerly held out to him the hope of our acknowledging his services in this way.

7. It was fully impressed upon himself and his chiefs at the recent Durbar that Her Majesty's object in thus befriending him was that he might the better protect himself against his enemies, and not to enable him to attack others. From all that I have seen of him, I do not think that these guns will be used for wrong purposes, at least while he has the power to prevent it. I have thus done all that it seemed right to do in acknowledgment of very important services rendered to us, and to contribute to the means of defence of a little State to which we lay under obligation.

8. In conclusion, I may remark that at the time of my first interview with Prince Kassa, I had not mentioned to him any definite number of guns as possibly to be given to him. That could not well be fixed until we were on the eve of finally leaving his territory, because it was not till then that either the extent of the services he had rendered to us, or the necessities of his own position could be rightly estimated by us. When the time for doing so came, it was impossible for me to make this question the subject of reference to England. I can therefore only trust that the action which has been taken under the views described in this despatch may meet with the approval of Government.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

P.S.—The return hereto appended will show the effect produced on our grain purchases in the country round Antalo, by my interfering with Prince Kassa, and the assistance he was then induced to render us.

Enclosure in No. 4.

MEMORANDUM of GRAIN Purchases at ANTALO, showing the Result of PRINCE KASSA's Intervention.

Date.	Bread.	Grain.	Flour.	Remarks.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	
February 17th	- 18	51	—	} Sind Horse and 3rd Light Cavalry supplied themselves with grain.
" 18th	- 290	133	—	
" 19th	- 24	5,062	—	
" 20th	- 496	3,004	18	
" 21st	- 809	3,465	—	
" 22d	- 3,000	1,415	—	
" 23d	- —	554	126	} Sir R. Napier's interview with Prince Kassa.
" 24th	- —	1,797	583	
" 25th	- 700	7,104	2,736	
" 26th	- 378	7,606	2,859	
" 27th	- 310	3,085	7,777	
" 28th	- 439	1,463	3,994	
" 29th	- 176	2,299	4,127	} Sir R. Napier and Head Quarters arrived at Antalo.
March 1st	- 603	2,352	2,835	
" 2d	- 450	7,959	1,777	
" 3d	- 1,800	5,765	14,400	
" 4th	- 1,800	10,949	11,980	
" 5th	- 1,000	4,998	16,037	
" 6th	- 900	1,679	12,371	
" 7th	- 950	2,860	9,898	
" 8th	- 1,400	2,259	2,760	
" 9th	- 1,000	1,495	14,028	
" 10th	- 1,000	374	18,704	
" 11th	- 2,000	410	26,467	
" 12th	- 2,700	1,635	13,349	
" 13th	- 585	2,936	7,469	
" 14th	- 585	734	9,958	
" 15th	- —	783	554	
" 16th	- 967	569	6,274	
" 17th	- 1,539	389	8,548	
" 18th	- 2,925	259	9,699	
" 19th	- 1,530	1,435	3,808	

No. 5.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
18th June 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to transmit for your information the accompanying list of articles purchased for public purposes from the property which fell into the hands of our army on the recent capture of Magdala.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 5.

LIST.

1 silver armlet	-	-	-	-	Rs.	55
1 miniature	-	-	-	-	"	50
1 silver censor	-	-	-	-	"	220
1 „ ornament	-	-	-	-	"	170
1 telescope	-	-	-	-	"	50
1 glass	-	-	-	-	"	10
1 picture	-	-	-	-	"	60
1 „	-	-	-	-	"	265
1 silver shield	-	-	-	-	"	110
1 do.	-	-	-	-	"	155
Swords	-	-	-	-	"	45
1 cross	-	-	-	-	"	15
						<u>Rs. 1,205</u>

No. 6.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
H. M. S. Ferooz, 18th June 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to transmit for your information copies of letters dated 8th and 10th instant, addressed by me to his Excellency Abdul Kadir Pasha, on the subject of our railway stores, &c., and cemetery at Zoulla.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 6.

COPIES of Letters from His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier, G. C. B., G. C. S. I., to His Excellency Abdul Kadir Pasha, 8th June 1868.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency, that considering the inconvenience of carrying away certain of our material from the coast at this season, I have gladly resolved to take advantage of your Excellency's kind offer to arrange for the protection of whatever property may be left by us between Zoulla and Koomalee until our vessels shall return to convey it to Aden, where it is required, soon after the close of the monsoon. The property which I propose thus to leave in charge of your Excellency's troops consists chiefly of railway plant and temporary buildings; the soldiers whom your Excellency may be so kind as to leave in charge of the stores will perhaps find convenient shelter in some of these buildings.

2. My own head quarters will, I trust, sail from Annesley Bay in the course of a very few days. Brigadier-General Russell, however, will remain for a short time to conclude the present work of embarkation. If your Excellency would be so kind as order the officer of your Government to whose charge you may wish the material made over to communicate for that purpose with General Russell, I shall cause instructions to be issued accordingly.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that there is a cemetery at Zoulla in which we have left the remains of those of our countrymen who have died during the expedition.

2. It is to be hoped that none of the tribes in the vicinity would desecrate these graves or the

monuments over them. But as we are not certain about this, I beg your Excellency will adopt what precaution you may think right for the protection of our cemetery.

3. I intend after the monsoon to cause a stone wall to be built round the cemetery.

No. 7.

Sir R. NAPIER to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander-in-Chief's Office, Political Department,
Suez, 18th June 1868.

Sir,

I have the honour to report my arrival at Suez in the "Feroze" to-day.

2. The Abyssinian Expedition having thus terminated, I think it right to make a few observations on the political condition of the country in which our operations lay.

3. The circumstances of Abyssinia at the date of my head quarters reaching Annesley Bay were reported at the time. The power of the late Emperor Theodorus, though making itself felt only within a very circumscribed limit, was nevertheless greater than was commonly supposed. This was not caused merely by his prestige, far less by any feelings of a superstitious kind which the people held regarding him. His prestige was no doubt immense, but he was still in possession of the material which had chiefly aided him in acquiring his ascendancy, viz., his artillery. Leaving his prestige out of view, it would have been very difficult, if not impossible, for any of the Abyssinian princes to oppose him successfully without cannon. The greater chiefs no doubt hated him cordially, but, at the same time, they hated one another quite as heartily as they did their common master; and I do not think they were capable of combining against him. Perhaps they would rather have submitted to his rule, detestable as that was to them, than have helped to set up one of themselves in his place. I think, too, I perceived in the country a spirit which a wiser course of action on Theodore's part might have enabled him to take advantage of even at the last hour. Some of the pettier chiefs, such as Waldee Yasoos of Wodjerat, showed a kind of pride in the Emperor's exploits, which might have led to an alliance being formed between those two somewhat kindred spirits against us. The circumstance already reported of Masteeat, the Galla queen, actually sending presents to Theodorus, and soliciting his friendship, a few weeks before we reached Magdala, is another instance of the same kind. These facts should not be lost sight of by those who think that Theodore's power was virtually at an end when we landed at Zoulla. His march from Debra Tabor to Magdalla was in no sense a retreat. The greater portion of his field artillery was in the latter fortress, and he naturally wished to have it at his command in the prospect of our attacking him. His burning Debra Tabor before he left it was simply the fulfilment of a threat he had made that if one of his chiefs, who had deserted him, did not return, he would destroy Debra Tabor, the property in a large measure of the chief alluded to. Although Theodorus was not strong enough to prevent insurrection in parts of his kingdom where he was not actually present, yet I believe he had only to show himself in any district of Abyssinia in order to have his supremacy in that particular locality recognized at once.

4. The history of our relations with Prince Kassa of Tigreh has been fully traced in preceding Despatches. I may once more say, however, that the assistance we received from him was very important, not only in its effect upon our purchases of supplies, but also in the facility we had of maintaining a satisfactory understanding with the natives through the Commissioners whom he, at my request, deputed to remain with us. I was, therefore, very glad when Prince Kassa and his chiefs joined me at Senafeh on my homeward march. They remained encamped in the neighbourhood during the few days my head quarters halted there; and I had almost daily interviews with the prince. On the occasion of the principal Durbars I presented him with two horses, a rifle, and other articles, in addition to the gift on the part of Her Majesty the Queen, which I at the same time announced, and the circumstances connected with which are detailed in my Despatch, No. 30, dated 9th June 1868. Smaller presents were also made to the greater Chiefs of his Court who accompanied him on the occasion. The Prince presented me with a horse and set of arms in return. The next day a Durbar was held for the purpose of certain of the native captives whom I had released from Magdalla being presented to Kassa, whose subjects they were. The ceremony which took place on that occasion was described in Despatch No. 30.

5. When my head quarters marched from Senafeh on the 29th May, Prince Kassa and a number of his followers accompanied me to the head of the pass. Our rear guard was

then halted; and after I had shown the Prince the rapidity with which the Snider rifle can be fired, he took his departure under a salute. I had lost no opportunity of impressing, both on himself and his Chiefs, that their only hope of retaining their independence lay, firstly, in union among themselves, and, secondly, in foregoing all thought of aggression against their neighbours. They seemed sensible of this; but expressed their fear of foreign invasion. I pointed out to them that this might be the consequence of their weakening themselves through internal dissension; but added that I thought they would not otherwise be exposed to much danger, because I would make it known that the people of Tigreh are friends of the British. The Prince then referred to the advice he had received from certain unaccredited persons, professing to represent the Egyptian Government, to attack us on our first approach. He said that he had suspected the motives of such advisers, and had merely replied that if the Turks themselves, who had war ships and guns, would attack us first, he would do so afterwards. I asked him to show me any letters he had received to the above purport. He said he had one such in his possession, and would forward it to me from Adwa. On my mentioning to him how cordial had been our relations with the Egyptian Government all throughout the expedition, and how the Governor of Massowa had been removed from that office by His Highness the Viceroy of Egypt on my representation, I think he saw more clearly than ever that the counsels he had been alluding to could not have been conveyed to him by persons authorized by His Highness to do so. Nothing could exceed the gratitude shown by Kassa for our kindness towards him, or his appreciation of our friendship. With regard to any intercourse he might wish to have with our Government in future, I directed him to the Resident at Aden as the officer to whom he should address himself.

6. There is one of the Prince's subjects, named Mercha Warke, to whom I may refer in passing.¹ This man holds a respectable position in Adwa, and, it fortunately happened, had received an excellent education in the Rev. Dr. Wilson's Missionary Institution at Bombay. His knowledge of our language and character, and familiarity with our resources, had no doubt a favourable effect on the prospects of the expedition. He himself moreover had joined me by his master's order soon after my arrival at Zoulla, and had remained with us ever since, going through a good deal of hard work, and making himself useful in any way he was required, sometimes in settling disputes with heads of villages, sometimes in procuring supplies. As he had not been receiving any salary, I presented him at parting with a horse, which cost 30/., a gold watch, and a sum of two thousand dollars in final acknowledgment of his claims upon our Government.

7. My only intercourse with Wagshoom Gobazeh has consisted in the exchange of friendly letters, copies of which have from time to time been appended. I have already expressed my suspicion that one of his motives in avoiding an interview with us was a fear lest we should take some course with him in the interests of Kassa. His whole policy has shown how vain it would have been for us to approach Magdalla trusting to his co-operation. The despatch of Mr. Munginger in advance of our force to the camp of Gobazeh, it will be remembered, gave the latter full opportunity of ascertaining our views, which, however, he did not avail himself of. Copies are appended of certain letters received from him, and of my replies.

8. I need say little of Waldee Yasoos, the chief of Wodjerat. My interview with him at Attala on my way to Magdalla has been duly reported. He was then in fear of his country being wrested from him by Prince Kassa. I assured him that the latter had promised me to lay aside, at least for the present, this design. Perhaps it was his confidence in my protection that induced Waldee Yasoos, shortly after my head quarters had passed on, to give his followers even more licence than they at all times use. A band of them attacked and plundered some subjects of Kassa, who was obliged to punish them for doing so. Waldee Yasoos perhaps thought himself aggrieved at our suffering Kassa even to defend his own people against him, and made this the pretext for assuming a very unsatisfactory bearing towards us. Our line of communication then began to be threatened, and even, in a few cases, our depôts attacked by men who were either acting under his direct orders, or for whose actions at least he was naturally answerable. At one time I even thought it might be necessary to punish this chief for his audacity, but on his presenting himself in my camp, when I again passed through his country, and endeavouring to shift the responsibility of all we complained of from his own shoulders to those of marauders over whom he said he had no control, I thought it better to accept his apologies.

9. A list is attached (Appendix B.) of the Abyssinian political prisoners who were released by us when Magdalla was taken. All that has been ascertained regarding their subsequent movements is shown in the column of remarks. The widow of the late

Emperor, named Ettige Tirroo,* whose lamented death in my camp at Haikhillat was reported at the time, had been more of a prisoner than a wife. The same remark applies to the Queen's two brothers, Gwongwol and Kassa. Ettige Tirroo and her brothers were the children of Oobiè, the former king of Tigreh, whom Theodorus attacked and made prisoner about 13 years ago. Oobiè had himself acquired the sovereignty of Tigreh by conquest, his own native country being the province of Semien, of which he was the hereditary prince. Theodorus took Ettige Tirroo from prison, and married her upwards of eight years ago. The condition of her relatives, however, was not improved by her elevation, as her father Oobiè was kept in confinement till he died, and her two brothers till I released them. It is said that she herself was treated with the utmost harshness and cruelty by her husband. She certainly did not appear to be distressed by his death. On my reaching Lât, the Queen's two brothers expressed their wish to leave my camp, and go to their native district of Semien. I asked them if they would like their sister to go with them, but they did not think they could protect her; and as they had never so much as seen her since the day when she fell, as a mere infant, into Theodore's hands until after we had liberated them, of course there could be little affection between them. The Queen's delicate state of health had prevented me from personally intruding on her; but as far as her wishes could be ascertained by means of the most careful inquiry, she was averse to accompany her brothers. The latter were therefore allowed to proceed without her to their country. I gave them a letter to the governor of Salawa, who was a friend of their family, recommending them to his protection. The late Queen was the mother of the youth Alamaio, whom I am now carrying with me to England. So far as I am aware, Theodorus has left no other legitimate issue.

The fall of Theodorus has, to a certain extent, made Abyssinia liable to become the scene of a struggle between different aspirants to power. If Gobazeh succeed in establishing his authority between the confines of Tigreh and Magdalla, and, resting satisfied with that, forego the attempt to overcome Prince Kassa, then I think all will soon be well. At the same time, it has to be considered that amongst those released by us from Magdalla were several chiefs of note, and that there is no saying what influence one or more of these may be able to exert on Abyssinian politics. Our only course was to do what little we could towards securing the tranquillity of the country after our departure. An instance which occurred before we were far on our way back from Magdalla may be mentioned. Dajaz Mashasha has often been referred to in previous despatches as Wagshoom Gobazeh's Governor of Wadela, who met us on our crossing the Tecazze, and rendered us much assistance in collecting supplies. In addition to his right under Gobazeh's appointment, he was Chief of Wadela also by his descent from Ras Hailoo. But another descendant of Ras Hailoo called Alee Faris claimed the same principality, and was no sooner released by us from Magdalla than he disappeared without so much as paying me a visit, or giving me an opportunity of reconciling him with his relative, and sought refuge among his friends the Yedjoo Gallas. The Dajaz Mashasha left my camp shortly afterwards, professedly for the purpose of taking over the fort of Amba Gayshen, which I had ordered the Governor to deliver to him, and which the latter after the fall of Theodorus was quite prepared to do. Mashashah, however, instead of going to Amba Gayshan as I wished him, set off in pursuit of Alee Faris, killing a few of his followers whom he overtook. But he carried the pursuit too far, as he was himself seized by some of his soldiers who favoured the cause of his rival, and made over a prisoner to the very man he was pursuing. If he had fallen into this predicament while carrying out any operation intrusted to him by me, it would of course have been necessary to go to his help, though the difficulty of doing so would have been great, seeing that our supplies were calculated only to meet our own requirements to a day. But as his quarrel with Alee Faris was a purely family one, which it belonged to Gobazeh to adjust in an amicable manner, I did not think my interference called for. Copies of one or two letters on the subject which passed between Alee Faris and myself are attached. (Appendix C.)

10. On the whole, it may be said that the effect of our expedition on the political aspect of Abyssinia has been the following:—The province of Tigreh which we found just struggling into independence has been somewhat strengthened and settled by us. Wagshoom Gobazeh, who at the date of our arrival was attempting a hopeless opposition to Theodorus, should now be able to establish his position. Theodorus had acquired by conquest a sovereignty which he knew only how to abuse. He was not strong enough to protect the people from other oppressors, while yet able to carry plunder and cruelty

* i.e., pure gold.

into every district he himself might visit. I fail to discover a single point of view from which it is possible to regard his removal with regret. I think it may be said that the object of the expedition has been accomplished without the rights of any of the princes or chiefs of the country having been interfered with by us, and that the prospect of Abyssinia enjoying tranquillity is at this day fairer than it was at the date when our army landed on the coast.

I have, &c.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief.

1 in No. 6.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

TRANSLATION of Letters from Dejasmaj Gobazyze to the Commander-in-Chief of the British.

If you want me to come send to me; believe not that I came not before by bad intention. Wolkayt, Tegedi, Semien, and Telant have not yet submitted; it is to conquer these provinces that I am staying.

(No date. The messenger says that he left the camp in Woggera on the 17th of April, was retained on the road by a rebel, came to Wodla, and then by Socota here.)

2.

How are you?

I am going to fight Tiffoo Gobazyze, but before I went I have left Dejaz Mashasha to receive you. Now if you are there till I come back, wait for me. It is impossible for me to come (to receive you) having left an army behind.

3.

I would have liked to have a meeting with you. You have also heard of Mashasha. I was very far, and you are in great haste to go away. If you tell me to come, I come, but if, seeing the state of affairs in Abyssinia, you tell me to stay, say what is the best thing for me to do. If the Crown falls by chance into your hand, I would like to have it. As to Wagshoom Teferri, I will do what you say. If you tell me to stay, send somebody to me to inquire into my doings and the doings of others. I send my friend and son, Guagmach Gebra Mikael,* to you.

TRANSLATIONS of Letters from His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir R. Napier, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., to Dejasmaj Gobazyze, dated 22d May 1868.

We wrote to you some days ago, mentioning our intention of leaving the country shortly, and our great regret at not having seen you before doing so. We believe much good would have followed had we met. Had we done so there was one request we should have made, which we must now do by letter, relying on your friendship and good will for compliance. There is a poor lady at Addigerat, the wife of Labat, Chief of Agami, whose husband having unfortunately fallen under your displeasure, has passed many months in confinement away from his home. We learn that he is of no political importance. His freedom, therefore, would cause no injurious consequences, but would add great to your honour and renown, and restore joy to a household which has been so long troubled. We would, on her behalf ask for his pardon and release, when the prayers of the now disconsolate wife will be added to the good wishes of those having friendly feelings for you—for your future welfare and happiness. We leave you in God's keeping, and in the fervent hope that he may direct you, so that your well-being may be continued, that there may be peace between the chiefs of Abyssinia, and that prosperity of your country be ensured.

28th May 1868.

Your letter from Salamba has only reached us here when we are about to descend to the sea coast. It is a matter of very great regret to us that we have not met and seen you, for we had much to say of importance to yourself, your country, and Abyssinia generally; and we wished to have acted with you in the same manner precisely as we have with Dejaz Kassa.

A meeting is now unfortunately impossible, as in a few days we shall have left. We can, therefore, only write what we would rather have said.

It was our special desire to have pointed out the great evils which continual quarrels and disturbances brought on the country, and the certain ruin which they involved. Now that the great scourge, who had so long troubled the land, has been removed, a good opportunity offers itself to those into whose hands power has fallen of changing all this, and introducing a new and happier era. We would solemnly address ourselves to you and all the great Chiefs of Abyssinia, urging, in the most earnest manner, that you should abandon animosities, and turn your attention undividedly to the consolidation and settlement of the country now in your possession, and use your utmost endeavours to establish good order and that protection of rights and property which unfortunately has been so long wanting.

We have again met Dejasmaj Kassa, whom the people of Tigre have accepted as their ruler, and have not failed to press this most strongly on him. He assures us that the above expresses his own and his people's utmost desire, and that neither himself, nor anyone beneath his sway, has any wish that the limits of their State should be extended. We trust he will be strengthened in this wise course, and we sincerely hope that you also will be guided by similar high and just aspirations,—turning your full

* Remained at Ashangi. Letters came on by messengers.

attention to those peaceful claims which after all bring the greatest honour to a ruler, as they infallibly give greatest happiness to his people.

The late misfortunes of Abyssinia have been greatly owing to the ambitious desire of one man to rule over all. We would say, let this no longer be. Let each be satisfied with his own, and exert himself to the best of his power to promote happiness and prosperity therein.

If this can be brought to pass, and we earnestly pray it may, our coming will not have been in vain.

Your friend and son, Geragmach Gebra MiKael, could not come beyond Ashangi, but forwarded your letter.

We cannot send you any one now, as you request, but we shall be anxious and glad to hear of your well-being and prosperity; and we beg you will at times tell us of such by letter, which, if sent to the Consul at Massowa, Mr. Munzinger, will be forwarded to us.

We commend you to God's merciful keeping, and bid you farewell.

Enclosure 2 in No. 7.

ROLL of the principal Chiefs liberated from Magdalla, showing the length of their Imprisonment, and where they went after Release.

No.	Names.	Length of Imprisonment.	Position and Country.	Where gone to.
		Years.		
1	Faris Alce - - -	11	Chief of Edjoo - - -	Has rebelled temporarily, but will probably submit to Gobazye.
2	Wagshoom Tiferri - - -	4	Chief of Waag, Cousin of Wagshoom Gobazye.	Gone to Gobazye to submit.
3	Dejaz Sahelo - - -	5	Chief of Haramat - - -	Joined Kassa, and submitted to him at Senafe.
4	Ajaj Negussy - - -	5	Chief of Haramat, son of Sahelo.	Remained at Haramat.
5	Balgeda Muro - - -	5	Chief of Tera - - -	Remained at Dongolo.
6	Shum Agame Aragavi - - -	7	Chief of Agame - - -	Joined Kassa of Tigre, and submitted to him.
7	Lij Sahaja - - -	5	Chief of Id - - -	Ditto ditto.
8	Shum Salova Ezekias - - -	5	Chief of Salowa - - -	Went to Samnie.
9	Dejaj Imam - - -	15	Brother of Ras Ali - - -	Left Magdalla without paying his respects.
10	Burroo Goshn, and two brothers.	15	Chiefs of Gojam - - -	Joined Gobazye, and submitted to him.
11	Cassa, son of Dobey - - -	14	Chief of Semien - - -	} Brothers of the Empress. Went to Samnie.
12	Gwangul, son of Id - - -	14	Chief of Id - - -	
13	Hugla Dereso - - -	3	Chief of Selemh - - -	Left Ardegee sick. Destination unknown.
14	Goshn Wondia - - -	4	Chief of Belessa - - -	Went to his country.
15	Ras Walda Mariam - - -	1	Chief of Begemededer - - -	Ditto.
16	Ras Gebrie - - -	1	Chief of Id - - -	Ditto.
17	Ras Waheda Tadla - - -	1	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
18	Betwaded Tadla, and two brothers.	1	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
19	Engeda - - -	Unknown.	Chief of Dembra - - -	Ditto.
20	Mauremi - - -	2	Chief of Shoa - - -	Went to his country under safe conduct of Masteeat, Queen of the Gallas.
21	Ubié - - -	2	Ditto - - -	Ditto ditto.
22	Aregi, son of Servale Sellassie.	2	Ditto - - -	Ditto ditto.
23	Ajah Wondie - - -	1	Chief of Begemededer - - -	Went to his country.
24	Ajaj Geret - - -	3	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
25	Ajaj Gebra Selassie - - -	1	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
26	Belala Gobazye - - -	1	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
27	Sergie Deresso - - -	1	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
28	Lej Meshasho - - -	Unknown.	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
29	Wossen Ilma - - -	1	Chief of Kwara - - -	Ditto.
30	Wossen Dareya - - -	1	Chief of Id - - -	Ditto.
31	Pasha Hayle - - -	10	Chief of Meja - - -	Unknown.
32	Talef Engeda - - -	1	Chief of Tigre - - -	Joined Kassa of Tigre, and submitted to him.
33	Ras Lebie - - -	3	Chief of Maja - - -	Went to Shoa.
34	Balgida Area - - -	3	Chief of Enderta - - -	Joined Kassa of Tigre, and submitted to him.

Several others of Shoa and Walo, whose names are unknown, and of minor importance.

W. L. MEREWETHER, Brigadier-General,
Acting Political Officer, A. E. F.

Senafe, 27th May 1868.

Enclosure 3 in No. 7.

TRANSLATION of Letter from Faris Alea to his Excellency Sir Robert Napier.

By God's power and your force I have entered my country. It is not by the reason that I did not like you, my liberator from death, that I did not present myself, but Bitwaddut Hailoo told us that the order was given to everybody to go home, and so I came. He, Dajaz Mashasha, took all the kit you gave to the poor (ex-prisoners) for himself. Thirteen men were killed by him, and myself with my brother wounded.

If you say now, leave the dead dead, the wounded wounded, and the plundered money plundered,* and tell me to liberate him, I cannot disobey you, but I ask them for a trial judgment. Well I will open him.

No date.

No. 8.

The GOVERNOR GENERAL of INDIA in Council to the SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA.

No. 201. (Military.)

SIR,

Simla, 27th May 1868.

WE have the honour to forward for your information copy of a General Order issued by us on receipt of copy of an Order issued by His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., congratulating the troops in Abyssinia on their successes, and thanking them for their endurance and exertions.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

J. LAWRENCE.
W. R. MANSFIELD.
G. N. TAYLOR.
H. M. DURAND.
H. S. MAINE.
J. STRACHEY.
R. TEMPLE.

Enclosure in No. 8.

GENERAL ORDER by the GOVERNOR GENERAL of INDIA in COUNCIL, dated 23rd May 1868.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India in Council has the highest satisfaction in directing the republication of a General Order issued by His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., to the Soldiers and Sailors of the Army of Abyssinia, in which His Excellency congratulates them upon their successes, and thanks them for their great exertions and endurance.

The Viceroy in Council can add nothing to what is so justly said by Sir R. Napier in praise of his Force, but His Excellency desires to express his admiration at the whole conduct of the Expedition, and to record his opinion that no Army could have been led with more ability, energy, and forethought under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, than have been displayed by Sir R. Napier in this Campaign.

The troops were worthy of their Commander, and the Viceroy in Council has especial pride in knowing that the British and Native Soldiers, composing the Expeditionary Force, were detached from the Armies of Her Majesty belonging to the three Presidencies in India, whose reputation they have maintained and increased.

The success has been most complete, and will not fail to be highly appreciated, not only in Great Britain, but throughout the civilised world.

His Excellency in Council has much pleasure in acknowledging the very great exertions made by the Government of Bombay and the various departments of that Presidency in fitting out and supplying the greater part of the Expeditionary Force, in accordance with the orders of Her Majesty's Government in England, and His Excellency has to thank the Punjab Government for the very satisfactory and successful efforts made under the orders of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to provide mules, drivers, and camel-men for service in Abyssinia.

The Viceroy in Council also owes acknowledgment to the Government of Madras for the ready share taken by that Presidency in the arrangements connected with the Expedition.

The thanks of the Governor General in Council are further greatly due to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, and to the various Departments and Officers in Bengal, by whose efforts the Force that proceeded from this Presidency was despatched in a most perfect state of equipment.

A Royal Salute has already been fired from the Ramparts of Fort William in honour of the capture of Magdala and release of the captives.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

GENERAL ORDERS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Adjutant-General's Office, Head Quarters, Camp Dalanta Plain, 20th April 1868.

CCLXXXIX.—“Soldiers and Sailors of the Army of Abyssinnia.”

The Queen and the People of England entrusted to you a very arduous and difficult Expedition,—to release our countrymen from a long and painful captivity, and to vindicate the honour of our country, which had been outraged by Theodore, King of Abyssinnia.

* Meaning, If no notice is to be taken of what Mashasha did.

I congratulate you, with all my heart, on the noble way in which you have fulfilled the Commands of our Sovereign.

You have traversed, often under a tropical sun, or amidst storms of rain and sleet, four hundred miles of mountainous and rugged country.

You have crossed ranges of mountains (many steep and precipitous) more than ten thousand feet in altitude, where your supplies could not keep pace with you.

In four days you passed the formidable Chasm of the Beshilo, and when within reach of your enemy, though with scanty food, and some of you even for many hours without either food or water, you defeated the Army of Theodore, which poured down upon you from its lofty Fortress in full confidence of victory.

A host of many thousands have laid down their arms at your feet.

You have captured and destroyed upwards of thirty pieces of Artillery, many of great weight and efficiency, with ample stores of ammunition.

You have stormed the almost inaccessible Fortress of Magdala, defended by Theodore and a desperate remnant of his Chiefs and Followers.

After you forced the entrance to his Fortress, Theodore, who himself never showed mercy, distrusted the offer of it held out to him by me, and died by his own hand.

You have released not only the British Captives, but those of other friendly Nations.

You have unloosed the chains of more than ninety of the principal Chiefs of Abyssinia.

Magdala, on which so many victims have been slaughtered, has been committed to the flames, and now remains only a scorched rock.

Our complete and rapid success is due, firstly, to the mercy of God, whose Hand, I feel assured, has been over us in a just cause; secondly, to the high spirit with which you have been inspired;

Indian soldiers have forgotten the prejudices of race and creed to keep pace with their European comrades.

Never did an Army enter on a War with more honourable feelings than yours. This it is that has carried you through so many fatigues and difficulties; your sole anxiety has been for the moment to arrive when you could close with your enemy.

The remembrance of your privations will pass away quickly: your gallant exploit will live in history.

The Queen and the People of England will appreciate and acknowledge your services; on my part, as your Commander, I thank you for your devotion to your duty, and the good discipline you have maintained throughout.

Not a single complaint has been made against a soldier, of fields injured, or villagers wilfully molested, either in person or property.

We must not, however, forget what we owe to our comrades who have been labouring for us in the sultry climate of Zoola, the Pass of Koomaylee, or in the monotony of the posts which maintained our communications. One and all would have given everything they possessed to be with us: they deserve our gratitude.

I shall watch over your safety to the moment of your re-embarkation; and shall, to the end of my life, remember with pride that I have commanded you.

R. NAPIER, Lieut.-General,
Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinia.

By Order of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India in Council,

H. W. NORMAN, Colonel,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 9.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir ROBERT NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.S.I.

SIR, India Office, London, 1st July 1868.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatches dated the 12th of May and 1st of June, reporting the complete success of the Abyssinian Expedition, the return of the whole force in safety to the coast, and the re-embarkation of the greater portion of it.

2. I have received Her Majesty's gracious commands to convey to you Her cordial congratulations, and to tender to your Excellency and your gallant army Her Majesty's warm thanks for the service which you have rendered to the country.

3. The foresight evinced in your arrangements, the precision with which you have executed them, the combined promptitude and caution which you have displayed throughout the campaign, the skill with which you have conducted your communications with the native Chiefs, and the admirable spirit which you have infused into your troops, have enabled your Excellency to carry to a successful issue operations of an almost unparalleled character, overcoming physical difficulties such as few armies in modern times have encountered, and such as probably no army has ever surmounted with fewer casualties and a smaller loss of life.

4. Her Majesty has observed with especial pleasure the care which has been taken to provide for the wants of the sick and wounded, and, while rejoicing to learn that under

the blessing of God the losses sustained in the campaign have been but trifling, desires me to convey to your Excellency Her thanks for this foresight, and at the same time to express Her gratification at hearing of the satisfactory progress of the wounded towards recovery.

5. Throughout the campaign Your Excellency has been well and ably supported by the Divisional and other Officers under your command, to whom, as well as to the Officers employed in the Political Department, I am commanded to express Her Majesty's warmest acknowledgments.

6. Her Majesty desires me to convey to the troops, both European and Native, Her hearty thanks for the zeal, good humour, patience, and fortitude with which they have supported the severe labours and privations of the campaign; for the admirable discipline which has distinguished the entire force; and for the gallantry displayed by those who took part in the final struggle.

7. It is with peculiar gratification that I find myself charged with the duty of conveying these acknowledgments to the native portion of the army. They have taken a worthy place by the side of their English fellow-soldiers, in an operation on which the attention of Europe has been fixed, and have given the world a striking proof of the extent to which India contributes to the power of the British empire.

8. Her Majesty has observed with much satisfaction the cordiality with which the naval duties of the expedition have been conducted by Commodore Heath, R.N., and the officers and men of the Royal Navy. The records of your proceedings show to how very great an extent the success of the expedition has depended on this co-operation.

9. I have submitted to Her Majesty's Government your Excellency's recommendation that a pecuniary grant should be made to the troops in consideration of the gallantry they have displayed, and the hardships and losses which they have endured; and I have the pleasure to acquaint you that they have resolved on granting six months' donation batta to the naval and military forces.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

COPY of TWO DESPATCHES from Sir *Robert Napier* to the Secretary of State for *India*, dated respectively 14th April and 12th May 1868.

(No. 22.)

From Lieutenant General Sir *Robert Napier*, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commanding the Expeditionary Force in Abyssinia, to the Secretary of State for India.

Commander in Chief's Office,
Political Department, Camp before Magdalla,

Right Honourable Sir, 14 April 1868.

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of Despatch No. 21, dated the 5th instant, to report, for your information, that it was necessary to halt on Dalanta until the 9th instant, to concentrate the force and gain information regarding the state of affairs to my front, and generally around me. The Chiefs of Dalanta and Daoont both visited me during that time, and principally through the personal exertions of Captain Speedy amongst the villages of Daoont, and the endeavours of Munzinger, considerable quantities of grain were brought into our camp.

On the 7th I received a letter from Emam Ahmad, son of Masteeat, one of the rival Queens of the Wollo Gallas. The influence of the Emam extends over thousands of predatory Muhammadan Horse, whose country lies around Magdalla. He is the virtual chief of the subjects of Masteeat, though the latter's own authority is also great. Masteeat is the rival of Werkait, another Queen of the Gallas, whose nominal ascendancy is at present established, through the assistance of Manilek, King of Shoa, though the majority of the Galla people support Masteeat. Information had reached me that Masteeat had very recently made friendly advances to Theodore, thinking this, no doubt, a good opportunity of enlisting his influence on her side against Werkait. Theodore is said to have accepted the presents she had sent him. Notwithstanding this alleged intrigue, the letter addressed to me by the Emam, her son, gave expression to feelings of utmost detestation on the part of his family towards King Theodore. As it was very possible that Theodore might flee from Magdalla, it seemed to me of importance to secure the co-operation of a tribe possessed of so much power as the Gallas, in preventing his escape. It was chiefly with this object that I had procured the appointment to the expedition of Meer Akbar Alee, of Hyderabad, in the Dekkan, whose services have been already referred to, and who, as a Saiad who has visited Mecca, was well adapted to attach the followers of Masteeat to our cause. He was despatched accordingly to Emam Ahmad, bearing a reply to the Emam's letter, together with a horse and other gifts. Copy of the translation of the letter is appended (Appendix A.) News of his interview with Emam Ahmad and Masteeat has not yet been received, but the impression produced upon the Gallas by his arrival amongst them has apparently been all that could be wished. There seems every reason to believe that Theodore's return to Magdalla, after his attempted flight, under circumstances which will be detailed further on, was owing to the way in which the hills around the fortress were occupied by the Gallas.

On the 9th I advanced towards the banks of the Bashilo, and encamped near the edge of the Dalanta plateau, from which could be seen, in the midst of a vast panorama of mountains and valleys, two of the spurs, namely, Selassie and Falla, of the mountain of which Magdalla forms the third spur. Magdalla itself was, from this position concealed by Falla and Selassie, and was distant about 12 miles from where we were. Heavy rain fell during the afternoon, and the night was very cold.

On the following morning the 1st and 2nd Brigades proceeded to cross the Bashilo. The river lies at the bottom of a deep valley among the mountains. The descent is in some places very steep, and represents a fall of about 3,900 feet, very irregularly distributed in $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The bed of the river itself is broad and rocky, and a considerable and now muddy stream flows in it at present, reaching nearly to our horses' girths. The ascent on the opposite side was very difficult. Theodore had lately conveyed his guns across the valley and had constructed a road, which facilitated our passage. But the ascent was so severe, that perhaps this day's march was even more trying than any of the former ones to our troops.

No reply had been received from the King to my letter of the 3rd, copy of which accompanied my last Despatch. Neither had we any means of conjecturing how he meant to receive us. Several copies of my letter had been sent to him, but we had not learned if he had received any of them, though it has since been ascertained that a copy was placed in his hands on the day we were crossing the Bashilo, and had caused an outburst of anger at a servant of Queen Victoria having presumed to address him.

Before crossing the Bashilo, I had caused to be prepared a second letter, of which a copy is attached (Appendix B.), intending that it should be forwarded, if occasion offered. As it proved, however, no opportunity of sending it occurred.

At four o'clock on the 10th instant, the head of the column, after traversing upwards of 10 miles of mountain and valley, had reached the plateau of Affajo. This plateau looks down upon the Arogeh plain, on the other side of which rises the mountain height of Falla. This mountain has an elevation of about 1,000 feet above the spot which we had reached, and on its ridge the King had placed seven guns. It was not until shortly before these opened fire upon us that we were aware of their being in position there. Owing to the very great height from which the guns were fired, the first round shot fell near where the column had halted, and our position, though distant over 3,000 yards, was within the extreme range of all the heavier guns. Shortly after the King's artillery had commenced to play upon us, large bodies of Abyssinians were seen descending the steep face of the mountain to attack us. The details of the engagement which ensued will appear from the official report, forwarded in a separate form. Our assailants showed so much bravery, that it was believed at the time that Theodore was leading them in person; but this was not the case; the King himself remained on the height, directing the fire of his troops. Our shells and rockets, and Snider rifles, taught the enemy a lesson which will long be remembered in this country. Their loss is computed at 700 killed (and 1,200 wounded), including many chiefs of note.

It was nearly dark before the assailants were completely driven off, and the fire of their artillery silenced. A suitable position having been taken in the immediate vicinity, the 1st Brigade bivouacked for the night on the ground, and the wounded were attended to. Our own loss amounted to only 20 wounded. The night passed without any alarm, the enemy, as afterwards appeared, having become paralysed by the blow which had been inflicted on them.

The next morning, Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad appeared in my camp, on the part of King Theodore, from whom they delivered verbally the message, that, till yesterday, he had thought himself the greatest man in the world, but had now found out that there were others stronger than he, and that he desired to be reconciled to our Government.

In conversation with Mr. Flad, several facts regarding current events were noted. The numbers of the enemy in the engagement of the day previous was estimated at between 6,000 and 7,000. About 3,000 of these were musketeers, armed chiefly with matchlocks, and there were upwards of 1,000 soldiers in addition who carried percussion muskets. There was no regular cavalry, but the chiefs of the army were all mounted on horses or mules. The Europeans assert that the guns were not served by them, but by Abyssinians. Theodore's favourite cannon, which he had named after himself, burst on the first discharge. The fire of the rocket battery had produced a powerful effect on the King's mind, and his impatience, after the battle was over, to avert the danger of a second attack by effecting a reconciliation with us was great. He had displayed to the last the characteristic cruelty which prevents us from in any way regret-

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ting his fate. There is no room for doubt that about 200 Abyssinian prisoners in confinement for very trivial offences were put to cruel deaths by his order the day before the battle. He had commenced the massacre with his own hands. The remains of the victims are still to be seen at the foot of the rock from which they were hurled.

Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad, in conveying to me the King's message, came accompanied by the Dajaz Alamee, son-in-law of Theodore. I avoided entering into unnecessary conversation with his messengers, and sent my answer in writing, as shown in copy of my letter which is appended, marked (C.)

In the course of the same day Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad returned to my camp, with an unfavourable report of the way in which my reply had been received by the King, who, on understanding its purport, had become enraged, and ordered his former messengers to carry back to me a document which he caused hastily to be written by his scribe, and which, on opening, I found to contain, enclosed with it in the same cover, my own letter of that morning, which the King had thus returned to me, he having conceived himself insulted, I am told, by my having presumed to address him at all. The Dajaz Alamee did not on this occasion accompany Lieutenant Prideaux. Translation of the paper sent me by the King will be forwarded hereafter. It was not in the form of a letter, because he believed it beneath his dignity to hold such correspondence with me. Neither was it sealed.

It was very trying, in the aspect presented at this particular juncture by our relation with the King, to persevere in the course which I had adopted as the right one, since the lives of so many of our countrymen seemed to be endangered by that course. Nevertheless, I felt that I had no alternative, and therefore requested Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad to return to the King, and say to him that I could receive no further communications from him until my demand of that morning had been complied with.

But happily the King's own mind had undergone a kind of reaction almost as soon as he had dispatched Lieutenant Prideaux with the paper referred to. He had recoiled from the possible consequences of his act, and after an attempt to commit suicide with a pistol, which was prevented by his attendants, had sent off Mr. Mayer, one of the European prisoners, to announce to me that all the captives whom we sought were on their way to my camp. Lieutenant Prideaux, while returning to the King, met Mr. Mayer coming down the mountain with this most unexpected intelligence, and he and Mr. Flad, turning back with Mr. Mayer, again appeared at my tent, bearing the joyful news, but not charged with any message from the King touching his own submission to Her Majesty. Soon after dark, Mr. Rassam himself arrived in camp, a free man; and with him came Consul Cameron, Doctor Blanc, Rev. Mr. Stern, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal, Mr. Kerans, and Pietro. These had all been liberated. They were escorted on the part of the King by Mr. Mayer, Mr. Waldemaier, Mr. Saalmuller, and Mr. Moritz, artisans; and by the Dajaz Alamee and Aito Samuel. It was not understood whether the German artisans above named were expected by the King to return to him or had been liberated also; but I judged it better that they should return to Magdalla the next morning, until regularly discharged by Theodore.

Although matters had thus assumed a most hopeful aspect, yet there remained ground for anxiety. Mrs. Flad, whose Christian fortitude during all her trials had gained for her universal esteem, was still in the King's hands, and so were many other Europeans for whom we were bound to take thought. It was believed that they, too, had been liberated, and had been prevented only by illness or other causes, not resting with the King, from proceeding to our camp. Still the uncertain and dangerous temper of Theodore was too well known to permit of our thinking the life of any one safe while within his reach.

Early next morning I received, by the hands of the King's scribe and Mr. Bender, one of his German servants, an Amharic letter, which, on being translated to me verbally by Mr. Rassam and Aito Samuel (the latter rendering it from the original into Arabic, and the former interpreting the Arabic again into English) was found to be an apology for the rude missive of the previous day. The King endeavoured to explain away the tone he had adopted in the latter, by informing me that that had been written after he had made up his mind to take away his life. He related how his attempt to carry out his design

had failed, and that now he desired friendship, and was prepared to send down to us at once every European, along with an offering of a few cows, as it was the Easter feast. My reply was conveyed verbally, because of my wish to avoid further correspondence with the King, whom I once more referred to my written communication of the day before. Mr. Rassam and others, however, acquired the impression that the cattle mentioned in the letter had been accepted by me, as they certainly would have been, had the offering accompanied or signified his Majesty's acquiescence in my proposal of the previous day.

The Dajaz Alamee, who had spent the night in my camp, carried back to Theodorus my verbal answer to his second letter, and with the Dajaz went Aito Samuel, Mr. Flad, and the four Germans who had escorted down Mr. Rassam's party the evening before. I did not think it necessary that Lieutenant Priedeaux should return to Magdalla on this occasion, because he was a member of Mr. Rassam's party, and therefore had been duly dismissed by the King.

Mr. Flad has reported, as follows, what took place when he and his companions reached the King's presence with my message, on the morning alluded to. The Dajaz Alamee delivered my compliments to the King, my acknowledgment of the arrival in my camp of Mr. Rassam's party, and my reiterated demand that the remainder of the Europeans should be sent to me. Theodore at once replied, "Well, I give every one of them permission to leave Magdalla."

The King then asked whether, at the time when Mr. Flad and his companions had left my camp his scribe and Mr. Bender had arrived there with his letter. Aito Samuel replied, "Yes; your letter was presented to the Commander in Chief, and translated." The King inquired what answer had been given about the offered cattle. Samuel replied that I had signified my willingness to accept them. His Majesty then ordered 1,000 oxen and 500 sheep to be taken to my camp. When it was reported to me that the animals had arrived at one of the outlying picquets, I gave orders that they should not be admitted within my picquets until his Majesty's full acceptance of my conditions of the previous day should enable me to receive them, or assume towards him any friendly bearing whatever.

In the course of that day (the day before yesterday) every European in the King's hands arrived safely in my camp, with the exception of M. Bardel, who, though liberated by the King, had been prevented, I believe, by severe illness, from leaving Magdalla, and who had not even sent me a message to explain his delay.

But no sign was made by the King of acceding to the still more important demand that had been made of him, and submitting himself to Her Majesty the Queen. The considerations which, with the lives of so many of our countrymen in his hands, had impelled me to impose this condition upon him, had lost none of their force now. It was essential for the vindication of our national honour, which he has so grossly insulted, that he should be removed for ever from his place. Moreover, we could not have reached Magdalla in this season unless we had been aided by the country. Kassa's supplies of flour had rendered us for the time independent of the failure of Zoulla to supply us. The grain of Enderta and Agame had enabled our transport animals to live and advance, but this aid was given in the full belief that we would rid the people of Theodore; and had we failed to do so, we should probably have had to fight our way out of the country. No doubt can from the first have existed in Theodore's mind as to the purport of my demand, because the letter conveying it was translated to him by his own servants, and his remarks at the time showed that he understood every word of it. His failure to submit himself, therefore, left no other course open to us than to proceed towards him as an enemy.

Early yesterday morning intelligence, which seemed reliable, was brought to me that his Majesty, with about 50 followers, had fled from Magdalla during the night. This was confirmed by the appearance of several chiefs, with an offer to surrender into our hands the two strong outposts of Falla and Selassie.

I at once sent word to the Gallas, offering a reward of 50,000 dollars for Theodore's capture, should he really have escaped; and as soon as measures had been taken for the protection of the chiefs and people among the King's adherents who might choose to surrender, I proceeded to occupy Falla and
Selassie,

Selassie, with the same force and in the same order that I had designed for the assault.

While the column was ascending the mountain, contradictory statements regarding Theodore were brought to me. Hardly had one messenger confirmed the report of his flight, than another would come with the information that he had returned to Magdalla, and was busily engaged in massacring the Abyssinian prisoners confined there, to be followed by a third, stating that he had committed suicide. Falla and Selassie were occupied by our troops, without any resistance being offered. The people everywhere laid down their arms and approached us with all confidence. It is impossible to form a correct estimate of numbers; they covered the whole face of the hill, and the paths leading from it were thronged for many hours during their migration. It is believed that the numbers could not have been less than from 25,000 to 30,000, of whom about a third were armed men.

The two hills formed a very strong position, and, if they had been defended with ordinary determination, would have caused very serious loss of life in their capture; both of them communicated with Magdalla itself, but what was the state of matters in that stronghold remained as much a problem as ever.

A desultory fire from small guns had been maintained from the walls for some time after Theodore's followers had retired within the fortress. It was said that Theodorus himself, with a few of his soldiers, had galloped out of the gate on the first approach of our troops, and challenged a party of cavalry to combat; but it was not possible to say certainly if it was he, though it now seems probable it was; he did not, however, approach near enough to give an opportunity of intercepting his retreat to the fortress. With the help of our telescopes, a good view of the interior of Magdalla was obtained; whatever number of defenders the fort contained were studiously concealed. It was plain, however, that the place was not abandoned, as the gate which had been opened on our first approach was perceived to be closed; a few figures were seen in different parts of the fort, and one officer thought he recognised Theodorus himself.

About noon, I directed a sharp cannonade to be opened upon the gates of the fortress, without, however, calling forth any demonstration in reply. In the absence of such, and in consideration of the numbers of women and children in Magdalla, it was not thought necessary to advance our guns near enough to produce anything like a general destructive effect upon the place.

About 4 p.m., the 33rd Foot was ordered to advance to storm the fortress. Led by Major Cooper, and keeping up a continuous fire upon the defences, this fine regiment soon surmounted the steep precipitous cliff which lay between them and the outer gate, notwithstanding the heavy fire of the garrison from behind their defences. Here their progress was arrested, as it was found the gate had been blocked up from within, by means of large rocks piled in the gateway. A company of Royal Engineers, under the command of Major Pritchard, had accompanied the advance party; but it was easier to enter the citadel by clambering, with the help of scaling ladders, over the fortifications on either side, which consisted of a masonry wall and very formidable thorn defence surmounting a scarped rock, than it would have been to blow open the gate. When the place had been entered, another gate, at the end of a long tortuous passage between two lines of rock, had to be carried. Altogether, this fortress is one of the strongest, even when its own proper defences had been reached, that I have ever seen. Its position, with reference to its outworks of Falla and Selassie adds so much to its strength, that it might be made quite impregnable. If Theodore had been properly supported by his soldiers, we could not have escaped very severe loss in entering it. As it was, however, his army had been so completely demoralised by the severity of the loss inflicted on them two days before, that the troops remaining faithful to Theodore were very few; and when they found that their unscientific defences gave them no opportunity to inflict loss on the assailants without exposing themselves, which our rapid fire rendered fatal to them, on the death of the King all the survivors abandoned resistance, and made their escape by the Kaffirbir Gate. The kind treatment bestowed upon their wounded had also produced a strong impression on their minds. It has since been ascertained that Theodore left Magdalla that morning, intending to seek safety in some distant province; but only a few chiefs

followed him out of the gate, and with the fear of his mortal enemies, the Gallas, before his eyes, he could not venture to leave Magdalla with so small an escort. He therefore returned to his stronghold, determined to die there rather than perish among the Gallas.

Every armed man who met our column after the fortress had been entered fell under the fire of the Sniders; and the bodies of several chiefs of distinction, who had remained faithful to their master to the last, lay close behind the outer and inner gates. Theodore himself was found lying dead some way up the narrow path which leads from the gate to the palace; a bullet had passed through his head. The medical report, of which a copy is herewith submitted, Appendix (D.), will show that he is believed to have died at the last moment by his own hand.

Copy is submitted, Appendix (E.) of a letter addressed to the widow of the Emperor. At her request, the remains of her husband have been interred under the orders of the officer commanding in Magdalla. No definite arrangements have yet been made for the disposal of her son, who is a boy of about eight years of age. Copy of translation of a letter which I have written to Dejaz Gwangóo, brother-in-law of Theodore, is also forwarded, Appendix (F.). Replies have not yet been received to those two letters.

The property of the late King is being collected in the regular manner. His crown and royal seal have been taken possession of in Her Majesty's name, and will be forwarded to England by a suitable opportunity. Measures are being taken for the protection of the inhabitants of Magdalla. Theodore's guns have been destroyed by blasting, and the fortress itself will be dismantled.

The liberated prisoners, of whom a list is attached (marked G.) leave for the coast immediately; and I hope to commence my return march towards Zoulla on the 18th instant.

Every endeavour will now be used to convey the expeditionary army with the least possible delay out of this country.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. Napier*, Lieut.-General,
Commander in Chief.

APPENDIX (A.)

COPY of Translation of a LETTER from Sir *R. Napier* to *Emam Ahmad*, Chief of the Wollo Gallas (original in Arabic).

WE salute you. We have received your two letters, and accept your friendly expressions with much pleasure. We have come thus far with the army, by command of Her Majesty the Queen of England, to punish Theodorus for his ill-treatment of British and other European subjects. We are close to Magdalla, and will shortly attack that place. It is necessary that no means of escape should be left to Theodorus. We therefore write to ask you to collect your people, and close every place in your direction by which he might otherwise try to get away from the Amba. Should he try to fly through your country, we will most handsomely reward any one who will bring him to us. But if you close the passes on your side he cannot fly.

To ensure successful co-operation, and to improve friendly communication, we would wish that some influential person, having your confidence, should be with us in our camp, to remain with us; and we would ask you to send such a person quickly.

We, on our part, have sent to you a Mussulman friend, who has travelled in holy places, and is a person of estimation both among ourselves and among his own people. He will communicate to you our wishes on all points; and we hope he will be received well and honourably.

APPENDIX (B.)

COPY of LETTER from Sir *R. Napier* to King *Theodore*, dated 10th April 1868.
(Written before going down into Bashilo Valley, but not sent.)

In order to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, we recommend your Majesty to send into our camp forthwith an Abyssinian, in your confidence, to whom we may communicate the views of Her Majesty the Queen of England.

APPENDIX (C.)

COPY of LETTER from Sir *R. Napier* to *Theodore*, dated "British Camp, Affajo, 11th April 1868;" sent in reply to the Verbal Message brought by Lieutenant *Prideaux*, Mr. *Flad*, and the *Dajazmaj Alamee*, the Son-in-law of the King.

YOUR Majesty has fought like a brave man, and has been overcome by the superior power of the British Army.

It is my desire that no more blood may be shed. If, therefore, your Majesty will submit to the Queen of England, and bring all the Europeans now in your Majesty's hands, and deliver them safely, this day, in the British Camp, I guarantee honourable treatment for yourself, and all the members of your Majesty's family.

APPENDIX (D.)

Surgeon *Lumsdaine* to Captain *Tweedie*, 15th April.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, by desire of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, I went yesterday to Magdalla, to examine the body of the late Emperor Theodore.

The examination was conducted in presence of two priests, who were watchers, of Samuel the agent, and of Dr. Blanc, and was identified by all.

There was a gun-shot wound at the back of the head; the inside of the mouth was blackened and scorched; the palate blown away, and a probe, passed in at the mouth, came out at the wound on the back of the head.

From examination of these two wounds, the internal and external, I am of opinion that death was self-inflicted.

APPENDIX (E.)

COPY of Translation of LETTER from Sir *R. Napier* to *Ythégé Tooroo Wark*, 14th April 1868.

HIS Majesty the late Theodorus, King of Abyssinia, having fallen in arms against the British Government, it remains for us only to request that you will inform us of your wishes regarding the disposal of his body, whether you would like it to be buried by us with all due honour, or made over to you for interment as you may direct.

We would like to know your wishes also regarding the son of his late Majesty. It is to be feared that, in the present state of Abyssinia, the youth's life will be in danger at the hands of many persons who will aspire to the empire of Abyssinia. We are willing to take the child under our protection, and send him to England or Bombay to be educated, and we would suggest this arrangement to you as the best that could be made. Your own wishes regarding his disposal shall, however, be followed by us.

APPENDIX (F.)

COPY of Translation of LETTER from Sir *R. Napier* to *Dejaz Gwangoo*, Brother-in-law of *Theodore*, 14th April 1868.

HIS Majesty the late Theodorus, King of Abyssinia, having fallen in arms against the British Government, we ask you to inform us of your views regarding the disposal of all the members of his late Majesty's family, in order that your wishes may receive our consideration.

APPENDIX (G.)

LIST OF THE CAPTIVES.

Mr. Rassam.

Consul Cameron.

Mr. Flad, Mrs. Flad, and three children.

Lieutenant Prideaux, Bombay Army.

Dr. Blanc.
 Rev. Mr. Stern.
 Mr. Rosenthal, Mrs. Rosenthal, and one child.
 Mr. Kerans.
 Pietro, servant of Consul Cameron (Italian).
 Mr. Staiger, German missionary, sent by a Scotch society.
 Mr. Brandies, as above.
 Mr. Essler, German and naturalist.
 Mr. Schiller " "
 M. Makerer, Frenchman, a servant, originally of Cameron, latterly of Theodore.
 Mr. Zander (German), King's artisan, native wife and four children.
 Mr. Waldemaier (Swiss), as above, an Abyssinian wife (who is the late Mr. Bell's daughter) and one child.
 Mr. Saalmuller (German), as above, wife (viz., daughter of Bell) and one child.
 Aleegas (son of late Mr. Bell), an artisan.
 Mr. Bender (German), wife and three children.
 Mrs. Kenzlen, widow of a German artisan, one child.
 Mr. Moritz, wife and child.
 Mr. Mayer (German), artisan, wife and three children.
 Mr. Bourgaud (French), artisan, French wife and five children.
 Mr. Schimper (German), geographer, &c.
 Mr. Schimper, jun., an artisan.
 Mr. McKelvie (Irishman), servant of Cameron.
 Mr. John Parkins, artisan.
 M. Bardel (Frenchman).

From Lieutenant General Sir *Robert Napier*, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Commanding the Expeditionary Force in *Abyssinia* to the Secretary of State for *India*.

Commander in Chief's Office, Head Quarters, ¹¹
 Camp Antalo, 12 May 1868.

Right Honourable Sir,

ON the 3rd April, when encamped on the Woddela Plateau, I received intimation from the chiefs of Dalanta that Theodore, having moved from Magdalla, and encamped on the plain of Arogie, was preparing for an expedition. Letters from the captives also warned me to be on my guard.

Between the British force and the plain of Dalanta lay the Jedda Ravine, 3,400 feet deep. As the passage of this formidable obstacle, so easily defensible, could not have been effected in the face of an enemy, without serious loss, I made a forced march of 18 miles, crossed the Jedda, and established myself on the plain of Dalanta. The mere distance in miles gives little idea of the labour and fatigue of the march; the excessively steep descent and ascent, and the great heat were very distressing for troops heavily weighted.

Theodore, however, did not cross the Bashilo, but plundered and burnt the villages between that river and Magdalla, which has always been faithful to, and trusted him.

From the edge of the Dalanta plain I obtained a distant but clear view of the position of Magdalla and its approaches. I was able with a good telescope to appreciate the formidable character of the whole position, and became aware that I should require all the infantry that I could possibly collect to make the attack effective, and that every cavalry soldier that I could bring forward would be necessary for the investment. Even with all the force that I could hope to gather up, I felt I could not complete the investment by sending a column to close the Kaffir Burr or southern gate of Magdalla, but I deputed an officer of the Intelligence Department, Meer Akbar Ali to "Mustiale" the Queen of the Woolla Gallas, to engage her to bring every man she could muster to close all escape on that side. Meer Akbar Ali's report will be forwarded and will show how effectually he accomplished his mission.

Reluctant as I was to incur any delay so near to Magdalla, these considerations, and the necessity of having supplies sufficient to carry me through the operations against that fortress, obliged me to defer crossing the Bashilo for several days.

I had not overlooked the probability of the unstable Abyssinian people despising the small postal detachments, and the pacific demeanour of our troops, but the various difficulties of our transport, and scarcity of our supplies, kept me without sufficient troops to make the posts of communication as strong as the circumstances required. Each day, however, was bringing forward some
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accession of strength, and in the meantime I had endeavoured by liberality, and every means of conciliation, to engage the petty chiefs between Antalo and the Tacassie River, to maintain their friendly assistance in forwarding native convoys of supplies. It was the only course that gave a chance of success; unfortunately it succeeded but partially.

Relieved from the pressure of our main force, the chiefs commenced to interfere with the Abyssinian carriers of our supplies, and to make attacks on our posts and convoys: the local carriage, which had enabled me to advance from Antalo, was superseded just at the time when its maintenance was most important; thus it happened that on the 4th of April I had only five days' supplies to depend upon.

The force had left all its baggage at Lat, one hundred miles in rear, taking on merely the clothes in which they marched, and carrying great coats, blankets, and waterproof sheets; they had no other incumbrance than a bell-tent for 12 officers or 20 soldiers; the daily storms which we experienced rendered this shelter indispensable: the carriage so released, was sent back for provisions to the points where native transport was doubtful, and gave me sure hope of ultimate relief from my commissariat difficulties, but the immediate urgency was pressing.

On the 2nd instant I deputed Brigadier General Merewether to the Tacassie, to arrange with the chiefs there to bring in supplies of flour.

Major Grant was directed to return to Lat, and Captain Moore to Lake Ashangie, to remove obstructions which had arisen at those places. Captain Speedy and Mr. Munzinger proceeded, the former to Daount, the latter to the borders of Dalanta that had been least ravaged by Theodore, and through the exertions of these officers, I was enabled to feed my cattle and to obtain flour enough for 11 days' supply at eight ounces for each soldier. The native followers received wheat in the grain instead of flour.

Relying on the admirable spirit of my force, I was prepared to commit myself against Magdalla with these means.

Besides the view which I had obtained of Magdalla and its approaches, I received most valuable information from a chief named Beitwuddun Hailo, who had recently deserted from Magdalla; having engaged in some intrigues with Menelek, king of Shoa, he knew well that his lot would be instant death on his master's arrival.

It is difficult to give, by description alone, a sufficient idea of the formidable position which we were about to assail. The fortress of Magdalla is about 12 miles from the right bank of the Bashilo, but the great altitude and the purity of the atmosphere exhibit the whole outline distinctly.

The centre of the position is the Rock of Selassie, elevated more than 9,000 feet above the sea, and standing on a plateau called Islamgie, which is divided into several extensive terraces, with perpendicular scarps of basalt. A saddle connects these terraces with the hill called Fahla. Fahla is a gigantic natural bastion, level on the top, entirely open, and commanded by Islamgie. It dominates completely, at an elevation of 1,200 feet, over all approaches to Islamgie; the sides appeared precipitous, and the summit surrounded by a natural scarp of rock, accessible only in a few places, and from 18 to 20 feet in height.

Nearly concealed from view by Selassie and Fahla, the top of Magdalla was partially visible.

The road to Magdalla winds up the steep side of Fahla, subject to its fire, and to the descent of rocks and stones. One part of the road is so steep that few horses, except those bred in the country, could carry their riders up or down it. The whole road is flanked by the end of Selassie, and the broad side scarps of Islamgie; altogether, without taking into account Magdalla itself, the formidable character of its outworks exceeded anything which we could possibly have anticipated from the faint description of the position which had reached us.

The refugee chief, Beitwuddun Hailo, was very anxious that I should try the south side, at the Kaffir Burr (gate), from the opposite range called Tanta, saying, "If you want to take Selassie go from hence, but if you want Magdalla you must go from Tanta." This, however, would have been impossible; I had not force enough to divide, and I could not place this vast combination of natural fortresses between me and my direct line of communication. I also perceived that the real point to be taken was not Magdalla,

but Islamgie, where Theodore had taken post with all his guns, and that Fahla was the key to the whole.

On the 7th I descended to the bed of the Bashilo, and reconnoitered the crossing.

The ordinary approach to Magdalla is by the Arogie Ravine, which commences under Islamgie, and is bounded on its right by a spur which extends from Islamgie in a serrated ridge to the Bashilo. A similar spur from Fahla stretches to the water of the Bashilo, and bounds the ravine on its left.

The highest point of this ridge is about 2,000 feet above the bed of the Arogie Ravine.

The grand features of the ground rendered it impossible for me, with my small force of infantry, to hold both sides of the ravine. I considered Fahla the key of the position, and determined to occupy the ridge, bearing in different parts the names of Gimborgi and Affijo, which leads to that imposing outwork. Established on this ridge, I could operate on either side of Fahla, as might seem expedient on closer examination.

Between the 4th and the 9th instant my force was increased by six companies of the 45th Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Parish, which, though long delayed for want of carriage, had marched from Zoulla in 25 days. A wing of the 3rd Bombay Native Infantry, under Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, was detained seven marches in rear, owing to the urgent want of carriage, and I thus lost the services of an able officer and an excellent body of soldiers, on whom I had calculated for the attack.

On the 9th the whole force concentrated on the edge of the plateau overlooking the Bashilo, which flows 3,900 feet below it.

Major Chamberlain, with the 23rd Punjaub Pioneers, supported by a wing of the Beloochees, occupied the bed of the Bashilo, and repaired Theodore's road.

The signallers of the 10th Company Royal Engineers maintained communication.

The Royal Engineers and the Madras and Bombay Sappers, under Captain Goodfellow, made up the necessary provision of sand-bags, scaling ladders, and bags filled with powder for the demolition of gates, stockades, &c. &c.

As the only supply of water between the Bashilo and Magdalla was under the enemy's fire, all the water-carriers of the force were organised under command of Captain Bainbridge, Transport Corps, with two subalterns, Lieutenant Mortimer, Transport Corps, and Lieutenant Ramsbottom, Transport Corps, for the purpose of carrying forward regular supplies of water from the Bashilo.

The bandsmen and a party of Punjaub Muleteers were also organised under command of Captain Griffith, aided by Lieutenant Gaselee, Transport Corps, and furnished with stretchers for the removal of wounded men from the field.

ACTION of the 10th APRIL.

3rd Bombay Light Cavalry	- - - - -	183
3rd Regiment Sind Horse	- - - - -	181
12th Bengal Cavalry	- - - - -	96
1st Brigade:		
A. 21 Royal Artillery, Lieut.-Col. Penn	- - - - -	86
Royal Naval Brigade, Captain Fellowes	- - - - -	80
10th Company Royal Engineers, Major Pritchard	- - - - -	20
1/4 King's Own Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Cameron	- - - - -	446
23rd Punjaub Pioneers, Major Chamberlain	- - - - -	575
Wing 27th Beloochees, Major Beville	- - - - -	259
1st Company Madras Sappers, Major Prendergast,		
V.C., R.E.	- - - - -	70
Bombay Sappers and Miners, Captain Macdonnell, R.E.	- - - - -	283
B. 21 Royal Artillery, Captain Twiss	- - - - -	103
G. 14 Royal Artillery, Captain Murray	- - - - -	94
Detachment 5/25, Major Hills, V.C.	- - - - -	27
33rd Regiment, Major Cooper	- - - - -	694
6 Companies 45th Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Parish	- - - - -	325
Wing 10th Regiment Native Infantry, Colonel Field	- - - - -	211

ALL preparations having been completed, I placed the cavalry under Colonel Graves, to hold the Bashilo, but ready to advance, and moved the remainder of the force across that river, under the immediate command of Sir Charles Staveley.

* B. 21 Royal Artillery	- - - - -	103	The second brigade,* under Brigadier General Wilby, to remain in the bed of the Bashilo in support; the first brigade, under Brigadier General Schneider, to occupy the Gunborjipur, and advance to a suitable place for encampment, and also to cover a reconnaissance, by the Deputy Quartermaster General, of the enemy's position.
G. 14 Royal Artillery	- - - - -	94	
Detachment 5/21	- - - - -	27	
33rd Regiment	- - - - -	694	
6 Companies 45th Regiment	- - - - -	325	
Wing, 10th Regiment Native Infantry	- - - - -	211	

The

The Deputy Quartermaster General reported that the ascent to Gunborgi was extremely steep and difficult, and that the King's-road up the Arogie Ravine was easy and secure for the mountain guns and baggage; they were, therefore, ordered to take that route.

A. 21 Royal Artillery.
Royal Naval Brigade.
10th Company Royal Engineers.
K. Company Madras Sappers and Miners.
Bombay Sappers and Miners.
1/4 King's Own Regiment.
27th Beloochee Regiment (Wing).
23rd Punjaub Pioneers.

When the leading part of the column had reached Affjo, I arrived at the front.

The King's-road emerges from the Arogie Pass, at a distance of 1,200 yards from Affjo, and 700 feet below it.

I ordered Major Chamberlain's Punjaub Pioneers to be sent immediately to cover the head of the pass, and the remainder of the brigade to be closed up as soon as possible.

10th Company Royal Engineers.
1/4 King's Own Regiment (7 Companies).
27th Belooch Regiment (Wing).
K. Company Madras Sappers.
2nd, 3rd, and 4th Companies Bombay Sappers.

The men were greatly distressed by the heat, the severe ascent, and want of water.

Shortly after Major Chamberlain had taken up his position the Naval Rocket Brigade, under Captain Fellowes, appeared rising from the pass, followed by Lieutenant Colonel Penn's steel battery, escorted by detachments of infantry.

At this time the enemy opened his guns from Fahla and Islamgie, making good practice at the Punjaubees, and at the position of Affjo.

Notwithstanding the distance, which was more than 3,000 yards, the enemy's shot ranged well into the positions, owing to the great command, and probably to excessive charges of powder, but the fire being a plunging one, no casualties ensued.

Almost simultaneously with the opening of the enemy's artillery, a large force was seen pouring down from Islamgie and the sides of Fahla, descending at speed the steep road and the faces of the mountains, until they filled the whole plain of Arogie.

Many of the enemy were dressed in red, and almost bore the appearance of our own troops in the distance. About 500, principally chiefs, were mounted.

The Naval Brigade hastened up the road to Affjo, and as each rocket tube came into position it opened on the advancing masses of the enemy, who were startled, checked, and driven back at some points, but only to press forward at others.

I directed Sir Charles Staveley to bring forward the remaining infantry, which by this time had closed up, to repel the attack.

The 4th King's Own Regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Cameron, closely followed by Beville's Beloochees and the Royal Engineers, commanded by Major Pritchard, and the Bombay Sappers, under Captain MacDonnell, Royal Engineers, descended rapidly the steep path leading down to the Arogie plain, with unrestrained expressions of delight at having at last their enemy before them.

Opening into skirmishing order, they ascended a suitable slope which separated them from the plain of Arogie, and immediately came in contact with the enemy, drove them back, in spite of the efforts of their leaders, in masses on which the fire of the Snider told with terrible effect.

Several gallant attempts were made by the Abyssinians to rally, but many of their chiefs fell, and they were driven down the slopes of Arogie towards the ravines on our left front.

A portion of them withdrew up the sides of Fahla, and taking cover in a thicket of cactus trees, opened a teasing fire on Staveley's right, causing some casualties.

Captain Fellowes, having maintained the fire of his rockets until masked by the advance of the infantry, had been sent to support Sir Charles Staveley.

The fire of the rockets, together with some volleys from Beville's Beloochees, and the Royal Engineers, supported by two of Penn's guns, under Lieutenant Taylor, cleared Staveley's flank from further annoyance.

The rockets were then turned on the summit of Fahla; they were well directed, and, as I subsequently learned, produced a very great effect.

A party of the enemy attempted to pass round the sides of Affjo, to turn our right, but were checked by a few rockets, and dispersed by the K. Company Madras Sappers, under Major Prendergast, v. c. Lieutenant Colonel Loch, with a detachment of the 3rd Bombay Cavalry, accompanied the infantry in support.

Towards the left, Colonel Milward ascended from the Arogie Pass with Penn's Battery, escorted by detachments of the 4th King's Own Regiment, under Captain Kittoe, and the 23rd Pioneers under Captain Paterson, at the time when the guns opened from Fahla and Islamgie.

On perceiving the troops of Theodore descending from Islamgie, Colonel Milward took up a strong position, and opened fire from Penn's Battery. Major Chamberlain, who was holding the pioneers in hand to cover the head of the Pass, moved to his left and joined Colonel Milward.

A considerable body of Abyssinians bore down upon Milward's position. Notwithstanding the evident effect of Penn's guns, they continued to advance with much determination and order.

Chamberlain, with his pioneers, met their attack in the most prompt and spirited manner, driving them, with great slaughter, into the ravines to his left front; not, however, without gallant resistance on the part of the Abyssinians, who closed fearlessly with the Punjaubees; the spear wounds received bore witness to the closeness of the conflict.

On the extreme left the enemy pressed in large numbers towards the head of the Arogie Ravine, where the baggage had arrived.

The baggage master, Lieutenant Sweeny, King's Own Regiment, with great readiness massed the baggage in a safe position, and the baggage guard, consisting of two companies of the 4th King's Own Regiment, and one of the 10th Native Infantry, under Captain Roberts, of the former corps, until disabled, and subsequently under Lieutenants Abadie (11th Hussars) and Sweeny, were brought forward, and most effectually checked the attempt of the enemy to penetrate into the Arogie Ravine.

Arrested at the head of the ravine, and driven back by the baggage guard, closed in upon by Chamberlain's Pioneers, and two companies of the 4th King's Own Regiment, whom Sir Charles Staveley had wheeled on to their flank, the enemy suffered most severely; large numbers were seen to fall from the admirably directed fire of the mountain guns.

Theodore's troops had advanced with the full confidence of men accustomed to victory; they had cast themselves off from their vantage ground, to which there was no return.

They had been promised by Theodore that they should be enriched by the spoils of the English, and it was not without a stout resistance that they were finally driven off the field.

A heavy rain continued during the greater part of the action. The troops, thoroughly wet and tired but highly elated with their victory, bivouacked for the night, covering the road to Arogie Pass, and before daylight had reoccupied their commanding position on Affijo, from which they had descended to meet the enemy.

The wounded were promptly attended to under the direction of Dr. Currie, C.B., Inspector-General of Hospitals.

Many wounded Abyssinians were also carried off the field by our troops, and were carefully attended to in our hospitals.

The 2nd Brigade, which came up in the night, occupied the ground which had been held after the action by the 1st Brigade.

According to the best information, the probable number of the enemy was not less than 5,000, of whom at least 3,000 were the regular musketeers, and the remainder less efficiently armed. Theodore distributed new arms to his troops on the day preceding the battle.

The loss of the enemy cannot be correctly estimated; 349 dead were buried in front of the left of our position alone, and exclusive of those who fell in Staveley's first attack, 30 very badly wounded Abyssinians were carried to our hospital.

Theodore's lieutenant, Fetararee Gabsie, and many chiefs of note were amongst the slain.

Nearly all night the calls of the Abyssinians to their wounded friends were heard, and the greater number of the latter were carried from the field. We saw a large number of wounded when Theodore's army surrendered.

The British loss was only 20 wounded, two mortally. This disparity of loss resulted from the determined and persistent attack of the Abyssinians against a better disciplined and better armed force; not better armed, however, as regarded

regarded the 23rd Pioneers, whose smooth bore is hardly equal to the double barrelled percussion gun of the Abyssinians.

There was no hasty flight; the enemy returned again and again to the attack, whenever the ground favoured them.

I issued orders to provide against the pursuit being carried too far up the hills, which could only have ended by our retiring, and giving renewed confidence to the enemy.

On the morning of the 11th, Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad arrived in my camp, accompanied by Dejach Alema, a son-in-law and confidential chief of Theodore, with a request for peace.

I replied, that if Theodore would bring all the European captives to my camp, and submit to the Queen of England, I would promise honourable treatment for himself and his family.

Lieutenant Prideaux returned to Magdalla with the letter containing these terms; in the course of the forenoon he returned again to the British camp with Mr. Flad, but without Dejach Alema: he brought a letter without seal or signature from Theodore, refusing my terms; my letter was returned.

I sent back Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad, to intimate that no other terms would be granted.

I considered that a fuller atonement than the surrender of the captives when they could be retained no longer, was absolutely required, and must be exacted; and painful as was the thought of the possible consequences to the captives if Theodore's rage should become excited, I relied for their safety on the apprehension of a renewal of the conflict which demoralised Theodore's troops, and from which Theodore himself was not free, as was involuntarily betrayed by Dejach Alema; I relied also on my threat, which I impressed on Dejach Alema, of unrelenting pursuit and punishment of all who might in any way be concerned in the ill-treatment of the European captives. I pointed out how the power of Great Britain had already reached Magdalla, that no corner of Abyssinia, however remote, would screen anyone whom we wished to punish. Lieutenant Prideaux was met on his return to Magdalla by Mr. Rassam and the remainder of the British prisoners, and several of those of other nations, all of whom arrived in my camp before evening.

My further conditions were not complied with. At the request of Dejach Alema, I had promised to abstain from hostilities for 24 hours. After the lapse of 48 hours, Theodore had not surrendered himself; reliable information reached me, that his army was recovering from their defeat, that many soldiers who had been unable to return to Magdalla on the night of the 10th, had since rejoined their ranks; that fresh defensive arrangements were being made, and that Theodore and his chiefs even contemplated a night attack on the second brigade, encamped on the lower ground; I therefore prepared to attack the enemy's position.

I had originally intended first to assault Fahla, from the side which fronted our camp, and was screened from the fire of Islamgie and Selassie. But under the altered condition of the enemy, Theodore, having by death, wounds, and desertion, lost half of his army, and his bravest chiefs, I determined to attack Islamgie by the King's-road.

All arrangements for this had been considered, and the positions for the artillery reconnoitred, and fixed upon, when information was brought to me that Theodore had left Magdalla, and that many of the chiefs with their followers wished to surrender.

I agreed to accept their submission, and ordered Sir Charles Staveley to advance on Islamgie, relaxing no precautions that I had considered necessary for the attack.

The scarcity of water rendered it impossible to retain any considerable body of cavalry before Magdalla; my personal escort under a native officer only remained, and with a few details of other corps, was sent under command of Lieutenant Scott, A. D. C., to watch the westside of Magdalla, where they took up a good position until the arrival of the cavalry, under Colonel Graves, who completed the investment up to the Kaffir Burr gate, which was watched by the Gallas.

The Bashilo was held by the Head Quarter Detachment of the Sind Horse, under

3rd Dragoon Guards,
173, Lieutenant
Colonel Tower.
3rd Bombay
Cavalry, 183,
Captain Mac-
naghten.
12th Bengal
Cavalry, 96,
Major Gough, v.o.

under Major Briggs, and detachments of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, 3rd and 12th Cavalry, under Major Miller, to secure that point, and provide against the escape of the enemy in that direction by the Minjerra Ravine.

A detachment of the Beloochees under Lieutenant Beville, ascended by the spurs of Fahla, and occupied that important position, where they were reinforced from the Second Brigade by the Head Quarters Wing of the 10th Native Infantry, under Colonel Field.

The artillery was placed in position, and the troops advanced, preceded by Captain Speedy of the Intelligence Department, with a small escort of the 3rd Light Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel Loch, to communicate with the chiefs who wished to surrender, and to prevent any misunderstanding.

No resistance was offered.

Sir Charles Staveley effected an entrance to Islamgie and Selassie, through a difficult crevice in the rocky scarps.

It would be impossible to arrive at any correct estimate, either of the numbers of the armed men who laid down their weapons, or of the masses of people, men, women, and children, whom we found on Islamgie.

It was necessary to collect and guard the arms that were surrendered.

It was also necessary to send down all the disarmed soldiers, and the miscellaneous multitude that followed them to the plain below, before I could proceed actively against Magdalla.

Theodore himself, having abandoned his attempt to escape, was making preparations for defence, and offering us defiance in front of Magdalla.

By three o'clock, the Abyssinians having nearly all cleared away from Islamgie, I ordered the attack of Magdalla to be at once carried out.

The entrance of Magdalla is 300 feet above the terreplein of Islamgie, and the ascent is by an extremely steep and rugged path.

Viewing the very difficult nature of the approach, I made the attack as strong

as possible, and massed the whole of my artillery fire to cover it, in order to overpower the enemy's resistance, and prevent the heavy casualties which I should otherwise have incurred.

Four 12-pounder Armstrong guns of the G battery, 14th Brigade, under Captain Murray.

Two 8-inch mortars manned by detachment of 5 battery, 25th Brigade, under Brevet Major Hills, v.c.

Twelve 7-pounder steel mountain guns of the A and B battery, 21st Brigade, under Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Penn and Captain Twiss.

Four rocket tubes attached to the steel battery.

Twelve rocket tubes, Naval Brigade, under Captain Fellowes.

The assaulting force consisted of the 2nd Brigade, led by the 33rd, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, accompanied by detachments of the Royal Engineers, and Madras and Bombay Sappers and

Miners, with means of clearing away obstacles.

The 1st Brigade to be in close support.

I concentrated the fire of the artillery on the gateway and the north end of the fort, which were crowded with the houses of the soldiers, avoiding as much as possible the higher part of the interior, occupied by the Abyssinian prisoners and non-combatants.

The enemy carefully concealed themselves from view, so that the place seemed almost deserted, although when entered by our troops it was found to be thronged with soldiers, who had thrown away their arms, released prisoners, and the numerous voluntary and involuntary followers of Theodore's fortunes.

The artificial defences consisted of stone walls, loop-holed, and surmounted by strong and thick barricades of thorny stakes, with narrow stone gateways; the lower one built up in the interior, the higher one being 70 feet above the lower, and approached by a very steep narrow path winding amongst the soldiers' huts.

The attack was ably conducted by Sir Charles Staveley, whose report is annexed, and gallantly carried out by the troops. Fortunately the defences were very unscientifically constructed, and though the attack was met by a sharp fire from the enemy, yet they could not direct it on the head of the storming party without exposing themselves to the rapid and fatal fire of the Snider rifle, and our loss was in consequence very small.

The Royal Engineers and Sappers, and leading sections of the 33rd Regiment, were long before they could force an entrance, and during that time nine officers and men of the Royal Engineers and Sappers received wounds or contusions.

At length an entrance was found by means of the ladders near the gate, and by the leading men of the 33rd, who scaled a rock and turned the defences of the gateway; the enemy was driven to the second barricade, and when that was carried all resistance ceased.

Amongst

Amongst the dead near the outer gateway were found several of Theodore's most devoted chiefs. One of them, Dejach Enjeda, had urged Theodore to massacre all the prisoners, a course from which he was dissuaded by others; close to the second gateway lay the body of Theodore.

At the moment when the barricade was forced by the 33rd, Theodore fell, as I have since learned, by his own hand; his troops immediately fled; some by the Kaffir Burr Gate, which was found choked with arms that had been cast away in their flight.

Of these fugitives the greater part fell into the hands of the Gallas; and the remainder, seeing the fate of their comrades, and hearing the taunting invitations of the Gallas, returned to Magdalla and surrendered.

The command of Magdalla was entrusted to Brigadier General Wilby, who held it with the 33rd and wing of the 45th Regiments.

So thickly was the fortress inhabited, and so great was the crowd of people that it was no easy matter to establish order.

Guards were placed at the gates and such places as required protection.

The family of Theodore were committed to the care of Mr. Rassam, who was requested to do all that was in his power for their comfort and protection.

The Abyssinian prisoners were released from their chains, and the very numerous body of Abyssinians, whose histories and condition it was impossible at the time to investigate, were collected in an open space in the centre of the fortress, where they could be protected, and where they quickly threw up small huts for themselves, and remained until their final departure.

On the 15th, the 4th K. O. Regiment relieved the 33rd in Magdalla, and the 45th were moved to Islamgie to reinforce the detachment of the 10th Native Infantry under Colonel Field, for the protection of the captured arms and ordnance, and to furnish working parties for their destruction.

The inhabitants of Magdalla were collected in Arogie, where great vigilance was necessary to protect them from the Gallas, who were lying in wait, both day and night, for opportunities of plundering and destroying them.

Notwithstanding the friendly relations with the Queens of the Gallas, their people were so little under restraint that it was frequently necessary to fire upon them to drive them from molesting our water parties and carrying off the mules. A party of them, in search of plunder, even dared to make their way into Magdalla, where they were captured by the guard of the 33rd Regiment.

On the 15th and 16th the disarmed soldiers and people of Magdalla made their exodus from Arogie.

Every consideration was shown them, and they were allowed to take all their property.

The Arogie defile was guarded by infantry, and their procession, after crossing the Beshilo, was guarded by cavalry patrols until they reached Waddela.

No doubt many of these people deserved little mercy at the hands of the peasants of Dalanta, who had suffered so much misery from Theodore's troops; but having surrendered to the British force, it was incumbent on us to protect them until they reached a point of safety from whence they could go to their native districts.

On the morning of the 17th, orders were issued to clear every one out of Magdalla by 4 p.m.; at that hour, the whole of the captured ordnance having been destroyed, the gates of Magdalla were blown up, and the whole of the buildings were committed to the flames.

The wounded Abyssinians, who had no friends to take charge of them, were conveyed into our hospitals.

The elephants and heavier ordnance having been sent in advance on the 15th, on the 18th of April the force recrossed the Bashilo, on its return to the coast.

I have the honour to enclose plans and photographs to illustrate the course of the operations.

I regret that I have not been able to complete my despatch earlier, but, owing to the marching in a difficult country, which has occupied the greater part of the days, and the many demands on my time, it has been quite out of my power.

By the next mails I hope to submit the conclusion of my despatch, which will include the re-embarkation of the greater part of the force, and I shall then have the satisfaction to represent, for the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, the services of the officers and men of the force which I have had the honour to command, of which it is impossible for me to write in too high terms, and to which I could not now do adequate justice.

I have, &c.

R. Napier, Lieutenant General,
Commander in Chief.

NOMINAL ROLL of OFFICERS and MEN WOUNDED at the Capture of *Magdalla* on
13th April 1868.

Camp near Magdalla, 15 April 1868.

Corps.	Regimental Number.	Rank and Name.	Character of the Wound.
Royal Engineers	-	Major Gordon Pritchard	Two slight wounds by splinters of stones, in right shoulder, with considerable contusion.
	5,957	Lance Corporal E. Wm. Hobson.	Slight splintered wound of right leg
	3,470	Sapper H. T. Davis	Slight splinter wound of forehead.
H. M.'s 33rd Regt.	-	Serjeant Edward Jones	Gun-shot wound, through right calf, severely.
	-	Private Stephen Lake	Gun-shot wound through right leg, severely.
	-	„ T. Hague	Spear wound over frontal bone, slight.
	-	„ P. Daly	Gun-shot wound, left hand, slight.
	-	„ Hickson	Gun-shot wound of knee, slight.
3rd Light Cavalry	-	Sowar Ramja Khan	Gun-shot wound, right forearm, severely.
Madras Sappers and Miners.	-	Havildar Koondua Suamee.	Gun-shot wound, left elbow joint, severely.

S. Currie,

Inspector General of Hospitals and P. M. O.

G. Mahaffy, M.D.,

Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals,
Indian Medical Department, A.E.F.

The following OFFICERS and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS were also Hurt near the Gateway, but were not Returned as Wounded.

Captain Elliott, Madras Sappers.

Cornet Dalrymple, 19th Hussars, attached to Madras Sappers.

Serjeant Fielding, Madras Sappers.

Serjeant Davis, 10th Company, Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant Morgan, 10th Company, Royal Engineers.

RETURN of ORDNANCE CAPTURED by the FORCE under His Excellency Sir *R. Napier*,
G.C.S.I. and K.C.B., in the *Magdalla* Fortress, on the 13th April 1868.

Camp near Magdalla:

Number.	GUNS.		REMARKS.
	Metal.	Description.	
3	Brass - -	56-pounder 5-inch smooth bore.	
1	Brass - -	18 " " "	
4	Brass - -	6 " " "	Turkish.
4	Brass - -	6 " " "	
2	Brass - -	6 " " "	English cast at Cossipore.
1	Brass - -	6 " " "	French.
5	Brass - -	24 howitzer - -	Native and French.
3	Brass - -	12-inch howitzer.	
1	Brass - -	3-inch gun.	
4	Iron - -	1 inch gun.	

NOMINAL ROLL of MEN WOUNDED in the Action before *Magdalla*, on the 10th April
1868.

Magdalla, 11 April 1868.

Corps.	Regimental Number.	Rank and Names.		Character of the Wound.
H.M. 4th K.O. -	- -	Captain	Edward Roberts -	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left elbow joint.
	672	S.M.I.	Michael Creedon -	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left leg.
	333	Private	George Kirby -	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left humerus.
	1,008	L.C.	Richard Odwell -	Severely; gun-shot wound of left foot.
	502	Private	George Sinfield -	Slightly; gun-shot wound of right hand.
	887	"	Michael Unica -	Slightly; gun-shot wound of right hand.
	- -	L.C.	Hugh Evans -	Slightly; splinter wound of left eye.
H.M. 23rd P.N.I.	375	Private	Deal Sing - -	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left femur.
Pioneer -	- -	"	Basa Kau - -	Severely; spear wound of neck.
" -	- -	"	Rau Sing - -	Severely; gun-shot wound of sacrum.
" -	- -	"	Utter Sing - -	Dangerously; gun-shot wound of left femur.
" -	- -	"	Jewel Sing - -	Severely; gun-shot wound of face.
" -	879	Bugler	Khosal Sing -	Severely; gun-shot wound of hand.
" -	- -	Private	Jeeta Sing - -	Severely; gun-shot wound of right thigh.
" -	1,355	"	Sunoo Sing - -	Slightly; contusion of abdomen from a bullet.
" -	- -	"	Gooroom Sing -	Slightly; gun-shot wound of left foot.
" -	- -	"	Hura Sing - -	Slightly; spear wound of hand.
" -	- -	"	Jewan Sing - -	Slightly; spear wound of hand.
" -	- -	"	Jowala Sing -	Slightly; spear wound of thumb.
Bombay Sappers and Miners.	- -	C.H.	Sumboo - -	Slightly; lost two teeth; upper lip divided by a musket bullet.

S. Currie, Inspector General and P. M. O.
G. Mahaffy, M.D., Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals,
Indian Medical Service, 1st Division, A.E.F.

Major General Sir *Charles Staveley*, K.C.B., Commanding the 1st Division of the Abyssinian Expeditionary Force, to the Deputy Adjutant General, Head Quarters, A. E. F. Camp before Magdala.

Sir,

Camp before Magdala, 14 April 1868.

HAVING been directed by his Excellency the Commander in Chief to report on the disposition made of the Division under my command, for the attack of Magdala, on the 13th instant, a brief description of the place will first be necessary.

The defences consist of three very steep mountains, named Fallah, Selassee, and Magdala, each being surrounded at the top by steep and precipitous scarps. Fallah and Magdala are joined to Selassee by saddles, and are nearly at right angles to it. A tolerably good, but, in some places, very steep road, leads from the British camp up the north side of Fallah, over the saddle along the south of Selassee, and over the next saddle, called Islamgee, into Magdala. A pathway branches off this road at the Fallah saddle to the left, along the foot of the Selassee scarp for some distance, and then turns up a zigzag to the top. Another pathway leads direct up to Selassee from the Fallah saddle. Neither of these paths were found practicable for mules, although we had been informed that they were. The summits of Fallah and Magdala are flat, that of Selassee slopes upwards from the scarp to the centre, and commands the other two mountains.

On the morning of the 13th instant, at 7 o'clock, a detail of 50 sabres of the 3rd Light Cavalry (Bombay), and 12th Bengal Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel Loch, of the 3rd Light Cavalry, was sent up to the Fallah saddle, and placed at the disposal of Captain Speedy, of the Intelligence Department, to communicate with those of the King's troops who had surrendered.

On the advance being ordered at half-past 8 a.m., according to instructions received from his Excellency the Commander in Chief, the G. 14 Royal Artillery, under Captain Murray, and the two 8-inch mortars, under Captain Hills, Royal Artillery, were placed under Colonel Wallace, Royal Horse Artillery, in a position covering the troops, with Selassee in front, and Fallah on the right; the A. 21 Mountain Battery, under Lieutenant Colonel Penn, having ascended a short distance with the column, was placed in position on a spur to the left of the road, to cover the head of the ascent, whilst the B. 21 Royal Artillery, under Captain Twiss, followed next in rear of the leading battalion of infantry.

The 3rd Dragoon Guards, under Lieutenant Colonel Tower, the 3rd Light Cavalry, under Captain Moore, and the 12th Bengal Cavalry, under Major Gough, V.C., the whole under the command of Colonel Graves, of the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, were sent round to the south, and below the mountain, to prevent the escape of the Magdala garrison in that direction.

The Division moved up the road, the 2nd Brigade, with a ladder party of Sappers leading. A company of the Belooch Battalion was sent up the first accessible spur on the right, into Fallah, and two companies of the 10th Regiment Native Infantry up the next spur.

On arriving at the saddle the advanced guard of two companies of the 33rd Regiment were sent up the direct path to Selassee, and the remainder of the 2nd Brigade, and B. 21 Royal Artillery, by the pathway above described, to the left; the path up the zigzag was so bad, that, although practicable for infantry, only three mountain guns could be passed up, and those by hand. The 1st Brigade moved along the high road to the south of Selassee, followed now by Captain Murray's Battery, the two 8-inch mortars, and the Naval Rocket Brigade.

The 2nd Brigade crowned Selassee before the 1st Brigade had moved along its southern side. I mention this because Mr. Waldemar, one of the released European prisoners, and my guide on the occasion, informed me afterwards, from information he had received, that King Theodore imagined we should advance by the high road along the south of Selassee, without first occupying Selassee, and had arranged accordingly to fall on our troops from the heights overlooking that part of the road. So far, for reasons which it is unnecessary for me to explain, no opposition was offered to our advance.

The 2nd Brigade having occupied Selassee, the King's troops were ordered to lay down their arms, and retire to the plain below; the first order was immediately

diately carried out, and thousands of men, women, and children, left the mountain so soon as the narrow exit permitted.

Some of the enemy, and amongst them the King, being observed on the Islamgee saddle, below Selassee, a company of the 33rd Regiment, under Captain Campbell, was pushed down the slope to the saddle, and the cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel Loch, advanced along the road. These parties were fired on by the enemy; but, the fire being returned, and some of the King's guns being turned on him, by order of Lieutenant Colonel Loch, he soon retired into Magdala.

I now received the orders of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, to make the following dispositions for the assault of Magdala by the 2nd Brigade, supported by the 1st :—

The 33rd Regiment, 10 companies strong, to advance across Islamgee, two companies skirmishing, and two in support; the remaining six companies, under Major Cooper, commanding the regiment, headed by a detachment of the Royal Engineers under Major Pritchard, and the K. Company Madras Sappers and Miners, under Captain Elliott, with powder bags, crowbars, and ladders, to form the storming party.

Two companies of Bombay Sappers and Miners, under Captain Leslie and Lieutenant Leacock, to follow in rear of the 33rd Regiment.

On nearing the steep ascent to Magdala gate, the skirmishers to halt, and be reinforced by the supports, and keep up a fire at the gate and defences, during the ascent of the storming party.

The 45th Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Parish, to advance in line in rear of the 33rd Regiment, and the 1st Brigade in column some distance in rear, in reserve, except the Punjaub Pioneers, left with two companies of the 10th Bombay Native Infantry to guard the camp.

Two companies of the 10th Native Infantry, under Colonel Field, to remain on Selassee to guard the arms, and clear the Abyssinians off the mountain.

The two mountain and the Naval Rocket Batteries, under Lieutenant Colonel Milward, to be placed on the north end of Islamgee, to cover the advance and keep up a fire at Magdala gate.

The G. 14 Royal Artillery and two 8-inch mortars, under Lieutenant Colonel Wallace, now arrived on elephants from below, to advance along the main road south of Selassee as far as practicable, and also cover the advance of the troops.

I leave it to his Excellency how far these dispositions were carried out.

There were two lines of defence, with a gate in each, at the head of the very steep and strong ascent of the point of attack; the first gate had a porch 15 feet deep, filled up as high as 12 feet with large stones. From this line of defence the enemy kept up a fire through the loopholes of a wall, topped with a strong fence, and a passage for the column could not be effected here until a ladder had been passed over a wall to the right of the gate.

In the meantime, some men of the 33rd Regiment scrambled up a cliff to the right; and, succeeding with much difficulty in surmounting the wall and fence, turned the enemy at the gate, and, with the head of the column, drove him to the second line of defence above; this being comparatively weak, no further resistance was offered.

On entering the second, the body of King Theodore was found shot through the head by his own hand.

The only two gates by which the garrison might have moved out being watched, the one to the south by our cavalry, and the other to the east by the Gallas, the men laid down their arms, and begged for mercy; this was accorded, and not a man injured.

I inclose a return of our wounded, all of whom were taken, the night of the assault, to the field hospital, 2nd Brigade, where they received every attention from Surgeon Major Wyllie, the medical officer in charge.

I also enclose a return showing the number of rank and file of the corps who took part in the attack, and a return of the ordnance found on the three mountains and destroyed; also a photograph of the attack on Magdala, from a sketch by Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster General.

I wish to bring the names of the following officers to the notice of his Excellency :—

Brigadier General Wilby, who commanded the 2nd Brigade, and led it to the

assault. He mentions the very effective services rendered him by Captain Hicks, his Brigade Major; Captain James, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General; and Captain Capel, 12th Bengal Cavalry, A. D. C.

Major Pritchard, R. E. (who was wounded), the senior officer with the Royal Engineers and Sappers, and who mentions the able assistance he received from Captain Elliott commanding K. Company Madras Sappers.

Captain Foord, Lieutenant Bird, Cornet Dalrymple, and Surgeon Pearl of the Madras Sappers; Serjeants Harrold and Dean, R. E.; Corporal M'Donagh and Sapper Bailey.

Major Cooper, commanding 33rd Regiment, who led his regiment to and over the gate; and I beg here to bring specially to notice No. 3,691 Drummer Michael Maguire, and No. 949 Private James Bergin, 33rd Regiment, the two men who first forced an entrance to the extreme right and turned the gate.

Captain Elliott, who commanded the Madras Sappers.

Captain M'Donnell, commanding Bombay Sappers; Lieutenant Colonel Parish, commanding 45th Regiment; Colonel Field, commanding 10th Regiment, N. I.; Brigadier General Schneider, commanding 1st Brigade; Lieutenant Colonel Cameron, commanding 4th K. O. R. Regiment; Major Beville, commanding wing of Belooch Regiment; Major Chamberlain, commanding 23rd Punjaub Pioneers; Brigadier General Petrie, commanding Royal Artillery; Lieutenant Colonel Wallace, commanding Division Royal Artillery; Lieutenant Colonel Milward, commanding Division Royal Artillery; Lieutenant Colonel Penn, commanding A. 21, Royal Artillery.

Commander Fellowes, commanding Naval Rocket Batteries.

Captain Twiss, commanding B. 21, Royal Artillery.

Colonel Graves, 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Brigade; Lieutenant Colonel Tower, commanding 3rd Dragoon Guards; Major Gough, V. C., commanding 12th Bengal Cavalry; Major Briggs, commanding Sind Horse; Lieutenant Colonel Loch, commanding Details of Cavalry; Captain Moore, commanding 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry; Lieutenant W. Scott, A. D. C., commanding the Commander in Chief's Escort.

Lieutenant A. Le Mesurier, Royal Engineers; Captain Leslie and Lieutenant Leacock, Bombay Sappers; Captain Bainbridge, Land Transport Corps, who had the very difficult duty of providing water for the troops throughout the operations, since leaving the Bashilo River.

Captains Ross, Griffith, and Twentyman, 20th Hussars, commanding Divisions Land Transport Corps; Major Mignon, Assistant Commissary General, 1st Division, whose difficulties are well known to the Commander in Chief; Major Bardin, Assistant Commissary General, 1st Brigade; and Major Goldsworthy, Brigade Major of Cavalry, acting as Assistant Commissary General, 2nd Brigade; Dr. Mahaffy, Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, whose arrangements for the field hospitals were all that could be desired.

Surgeon Major Wyllie, in charge of the Field Hospital Brigade.

I desire also to bring to notice the officers of my staff.

Lieutenant Colonel Wood, Assistant Adjutant General, Major Baigrie, Assistant Quartermaster General, Lieutenant Saunders, 20th Hussars, A. D. C., and Captain George Arbuthnot, extra A. D. C.

These officers rendered me great assistance in carrying out the orders of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, during the day, and have served with me since my first arrival at Zoolla with the first arrived brigade.

I have, &c.

C. Staveley, Major General,
Commanding 1st Division,
Abyssinian Field Force.

P.S.—A sketch of the ground showing the disposition of the guns and troops is attached.

Camp, near Magdala.

RETURN of ORDNANCE CAPTURED by the FORCE under His Excellency Sir *Robert Napier*, G.C.S.I. and K.C.B., in the *Magdala* Fortress, on the 13th April 1868.

GUNS.

No.	Metal.	Description.	REMARKS.
3	Brass - -	56-pounder, smooth bore.	
1	Ditto - -	18 " " - -	
4	Ditto - -	6 " " - -	Turkish.
4	Ditto - -	6 " " - -	
2	Ditto - -	6 " " - -	English, cast at Cossipore.
1	Ditto - -	6 " " - -	French.
5	Ditto - -	24 " howitzer - -	Native, and French.
3	Ditto - -	12 " " - -	
1	Ditto - -	3 " guns.	
4	Iron - -	1 " "	

MORTARS.

No.	Metal.	Description.	REMARKS.
1	Brass - -	20-inch.	
1	Ditto - -	13 "	
2	Ditto - -	10 "	
5	Ditto - -	From 2½ to 6-inch.	

N.B.—The guns, howitzers, and mortars, were all found serviceable, and supplied with ammunition, except one 56-pounder, which had burst on the 10th instant.

J. G. Petrie, Brigadier General,
Commanding Royal Artillery, A.E.F.

Camp, near Magdala, 15 April 1868.

NOMINAL ROLL of OFFICERS and MEN WOUNDED at the Capture of *Magdala*,
on the 13th April 1868.

Corps.	Regimental Number.	Rank and Name.	Character of the Wound.
Royal Engineers -	- - -	Major Gordon Pritchard -	Two slight wounds, caused by splinters of stone on right shoulder, with considerable contusion.
	5,957	Lance Corporal William Hobson.	Slight splinter wound of right leg
	3,470	Sapper Henry Davis -	Slight splinter wound of forehead.
Her Majesty's 33rd Regiment.	- -	Serjeant Evan Jones -	Gun-shot wound through right calf, severely.
	- -	Private Stephen Lake -	Gun-shot wound through right leg, severely.
	- -	Private J. Hayne - -	Spear wound over frontal bone, slight.
	- -	Private J. Daly - -	Gun-shot wound, left hand, slight.
	- -	Private Hickson - -	Gun-shot wound of knee, slight.
3rd Light Cavalry	- -	Sowar Ramjeeer Khan -	Gun-shot wound, right fore arm, severely.
Madras Sappers and Miners.	- -	Havildar Koustier Swamee	Gun-shot wound, left elbow joint, severely.

J. Currie, Inspector and P. M. O.

G. Mahaffy, M.D., Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals,
Indian Medical Department, 1st Division, A. E. F.

Camp near Magdala, on the 15th April 1868.

RETURN of KILLED and WOUNDED at the STORMING of *Magdala*, on the 13th April 1868.

CORPS.	OFFICERS.					Non-COMMISSION OFFICERS AND MEN.				
	Killed.	Wounded.			Killed.	Wounded.				
		Dangerously.	Slightly.	Severely.		Dangerously.	Slightly.	Severely.	Total.	
H. M's. 33rd Regiment -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
3rd Light Cavalry -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Madras S. and M. -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
10th Company R. E. -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	3
Total - - -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	4	10

G. Mahaffy, M. D.,
Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Service, A. E. F.
J. Currie, Inspector General, and. P. M O.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

COPY of TWO DESPATCHES from Sir Robert Napier to the Secretary of State for India, dated respectively 14th April and 12th May 1868.

(Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
17 June 1868.

RETURN
OF THE
NAMES, &c.,
OF
PRISONERS IN ABYSSINIA.

*Presented to the House of Commons by Command of Her Majesty, in pursuance of their
Address dated November 21, 1867.*

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated November 21, 1867,
for—

‘ A Return of the Names, Nationalities, and Occupations, and Length of Residence of the several Prisoners in Abyssinia, to release whom a Military Force is proceeding to Abyssinia ; together with a Return (if obtainable) of the Europeans not Prisoners, in the service of the Emperor Theodorus ; in the following form :”—

Name.	Length of Residence.	Nationality.	Occupation.
C. D. Cameron ..	Arrived at Gondar, June 23, 1862.	British .	Her Majesty's Consul at Mas-sowah.
L. Kerans .	Supposed to have accompanied Consul Cameron.	Ditto ..	Secretary to Consul Cameron.
R. Mc Kelvey ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Servant to ditto.
J. Makerer ..	Ditto ..	French .	Ditto.
D. Pietro ..	Ditto ..	Italian .	Ditto.
H. Rassam ..	Arrived at Emperor's camp, January 28, 1866.	Syrian by birth, but British by employ-ment.	Her Majesty's Envoy to Abys-sinia.
Lieut. Prideaux ..	Ditto ..	British .	Attached to Mr. Rassam's Mis-sion.
Dr. Blanc ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.

No return of Servants accompanying Mr. Rassam's Mission.

Persons stated to be detained in captivity by King Theodore whose case is specially recom-mended to the British Commander-in-chief, although the military force is not proceeding to Abyssinia specifically to effect their release.

A. Bardel ..	Exact length of residence un-known.	French .	Painter and teacher of languages. Formerly Secretary to Consul Cameron.
Rev. H. A. Stern ..		Hessian ..	Missionary.
Rev. H. Rosenthal ..		Mecklenburg ..	Ditto.
Mrs. E. Rosenthal ..		British-born.	
Rev. J. M. Flad ..		Prussian ..	Ditto.
Mrs. Flad ..		Ditto.	
A. Flad }	children ..	Ditto.	
F. Flad }			
P. Flad }			
Rev. W. Staiger ..		Baden .	Ditto.
Rev. F. Brandeis ..		Ditto ..	Ditto.
K. Schiller ..		Prussian ..	Natural History Collector.
T. Essler ..		Hungarian ..	Ditto.

Europeans (not known to be imprisoned) in the service of King Theodore.

The only information on this head is given in the following extract of a letter from Mr. Flad, dated July 10, 1866 :—

“ The European workmen, with their wives and children, are thirty-five souls.”

ABYSSINIA.

RETURN of the Names, &c., of Prisoners in
Abyssinia.

*Presented to the House of Commons by Command
of Her Majesty, in pursuance of their Address
dated November 21, 1867.*

[Price $\frac{1}{2}d.$]

LONDON.

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated 3 December 1867;—for

RETURN “of List, with the Names, of every MERCHANT VESSEL or STEAMER engaged in the ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION Chartered in *England*, with the Net and Gross Register Tonnage of each Ship, the Horse-power of each Engine, the Price per Ton each Ship is Chartered at; also the Name of each Registered Owner of such Ship as appeared upon the Register when the Ship was tendered to the Government for Hire, and the Name of each Owner as now stands upon the Register, with the Name of the Broker who tendered such Ship.”

Admiralty, }
17 February 1868.

JOHN HENRY BRIGGS,
Chief Clerk.

RETURN of List, with the Names, of every MERCHANT VESSEL or STEAMER engaged in the ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION Chartered in *England*, with the Net and Gross Register Tonnage of each Ship, the Horse-power of each Engine, the Price per Ton each Ship is Chartered at, &c.

NAME OF SHIP.	Tonnage.			Horse Power.	Rate per Ton per Month if Discharged		Name of Owners as per Register when the Ship was tendered to Government.	Name of Owners as per Register at the Present Time.	Name of Brokers.
	Exclusive of Engine Room.	Engine Room.	Gross or whole Tonnage.		At Home.	Abroad.			
City of Manchester	1,309	610	1,919	450	s. 35 -	d. 45 -	William Langton, John Cross Lepper, Thomas Scumble Owden, William Inman, James Key de Younger, William Valentine, Charles William Lepper, Robert Stewart Lepper, Thomas Langton Birley, Charles Birley, Arthur Leyland Birley, William Tod, Thomas Inman, William Stobart, Charles Inman.	The same as when tendered	H. E. Moss & Co.
City of Dublin	1,548	450	1,998	250	35 -	45 -	William Inman	Ditto	Ditto.
England	2,607	700	3,307	350	35 -	3 months' additional pay.	The National Steam Navigation Company (Limited), Liverpool.	Ditto	T. S. Begbie.
Queen	2,817	700	3,517	350	37 6	50 -	British and South American Steam Navigation Company (Limited), 1A, Princess-street, E.C.	Ditto	Ditto.
Prussian	1,713	532	2,245	300	32 3	35 -	Same owners as "City of Manchester", The West India and Pacific Steam Ship Company (Limited), Liverpool.	Ditto	T. M. Mackay, Sons & Co.
Kangaroo	1,196	523	1,719	350	32 6	45 -	Same owners as "City of Manchester", The West India and Pacific Steam Ship Company (Limited), Liverpool.	Ditto	H. E. Moss & Co.
Callonian	1,286	545	1,831	200	24 10	35 -	Ditto	Ditto	West India and Pacific Steam-ship Company.
West Indian	1,277	527	1,804	200	26 -	36 -	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
American	1,286	545	1,831	200	24 10	35 -	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Bosphorus (Lost)	1,080	450	2,130	280	32 6	50 -	William Henry Dixon, Charles Edward Dixon, and William Swan Dixon.	Ditto	T. M. Mackay, Sons & Co.
Golden Fleece	2,091	677	2,768	300	30 -	1 month's additional pay.	Richard Wilson Pelly	Ditto	Alfred Brett & Co.
Mauritius	1,451	683	2,134	300	30 -	30 -	Richard Wilson Pelly, John William Hoare	Swanton Boulk (7 Nov. 1867)	Ditto.
Queen of the South	1,433	657	2,090	300	30 -	30 -	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Empress	618	162	780	200	30 -	30 -	Henry Frederick Swan and Charles Mitchell	The same as when tendered	Bake & Co.
Parana	1,925	205	1,320	180	25 -	25 -	William Malcolmson, Robert Malcolmson, David Malcolmson, George Pim Malcolmson, Frederick Malcolmson.	Ditto	Smith, Sundius & Co.
Cumondours	764	205	969	150	24 9	30 -	Thomas Richardson, James Laing, Joseph Richardson.	Ditto	J. Preston.
Bolivar	962	217	1,179	160	30 -	35 -	The West India and Pacific Steamship Company (Limited).	Ditto	West India and Pacific Steam-ship Company.
Venelia	513	241	754	150	34 6	44 6	Ocean Steam Navigation Company (Limited)	Ditto	A Laming & Co.

Admiralty, 31 December.

W. R. Mends, Director of Transport Services.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN of List, with the Names, of every MERCHANT VESSEL or STEAMER engaged in the ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION Chartered in *England*, with the Net and Gross Register Tonnage of each Ship, the Horse-power of each Engine, the Price per Ton each Ship is Chartered at; also the Name of each Registered Owner of such Ship as appeared upon the Register when the Ship was tendered to Government for Hire, and the Name of each Owner as now stands upon the Register, &c.

(*Mr. Richard Young.*)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
18 February 1868.*

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 7 December 1867;—for,

“RETURN of the Amount of CONDENSING POWER, in detail, for the Supply of FRESH WATER in each VESSEL intended to be employed in the ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION, including that of the Condensing Vessel to be stationed at *Annesley Bay*.”

India Office, }
24 March 1868. }

T. T. PEARS, Major General,
Military Secretary.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—DISTILLING APPARATUS.

NUMBER of Gallons of FRESH WATER capable of being Distilled.

No.	Name of Vessel.	Number of Gallons which can be Distilled.	No.	Name of Vessel.	Number of Gallons which can be Distilled.
ENGLAND:			CALCUTTA—continued.		
1	City of Manchester - - -	1,800 gallons daily.	35	Steamer, Defiance - - -	50 gallons per hour.
2	City of Dublin - - -	1,700 " "	36	" Challenge, tug - - -	50 " "
3	England - - -	2,900 " "	37	" Punjaub - - -	21 " "
4	Queen - - -	2,220 " "	38	Middlesex - - -	40 " "
5	Peruvian - - -	2,000 " "	39	Steamer, Far East - - -	45 " "
6	Kangaroo - - -	1,700 " "	BOMBAY:		
7	Californian - - -	2,780 " "	HER MAJESTY'S VESSELS:		
8	West Indian - - -	2,780 " "	1	Coromandel, S. - - -	1,200 gallons daily.
9	Golden Fleecie - - -	1,440 " "	2	Dalhousie, S. - - -	1,200 " "
10	Mauritius - - -	1,500 " " Hospital	3	Earl Canning, S. - - -	1,200 " "
11	Queen of the South - - -	1,600 " " Ships.	4	Lord Elphinstone, S. - - -	1,200 " "
12	American - - -	2,700 " "	5	May Frere, S. - - -	700 " "
13	Bosphorus - - -	Lost off Algoa Bay.	6	Sir John Lawrence, S. - - -	1,200 " "
CALCUTTA:			7	Semiramis, S., condensing vessel stationed at Annesley Bay - - -	4,000 " "
1	Underley - - -	44 gallons per hour.	8	Hydrabad - - -	10,000 " "
2	Atalanta - - -	26 " "	TRANSPORTS:		
3	Durham - - -	56 " "	1	Arminian, S. - - -	4½ tons daily.
4	Dallam Tower - - -	30 " "	2	Arabia, S. - - -	500 gallons daily.
5	India - - -	52 " "	3	Asia, S. - - -	500 " "
6	Malabar - - -	48 " "	4	Great Victoria, S. - - -	1,000 " "
7	Howrah - - -	No condenser on board.	5	General Havelock, S. - - -	500 " "
8	Continental - - -		6	India, S. - - -	800 " "
9	Queen of India - - -	45 gallons per hour.	7	Indore, S. - - -	800 " "
10	Squando - - -		8	John Bright, S. - - -	400 " "
11	Winchester - - -	No condenser on board.	9	Lord Clyde, S. - - -	800 " "
12	Steamer, Alexandra tug - - -		10	Madras, S. - - -	500 " "
13	Vernon - - -	20 gallons per hour.	11	Norna, S. - - -	2½ tons daily.
14	Steamer, Oriental - - -	30 " "	12	Ottawa, S. - - -	400 gallons daily.
15	" Court Hey - - -	50 " "	13	Thales, S. - - -	300 " "
16	" Hunsoon - - -	50 " "	14	Sir Bartle Frere, S. - - -	500 " "
17	" Electric - - -	25 " "	15	Sunda, S. - - -	300 " "
18	" Bombay - - -	25 " "	16	Salsette, S. - - -	600 " "
19	Ophir - - -	No condenser on board.	17	Satara, S. - - -	1,200 " "
20	Steamer, Himalaya - - -	30 gallons per hour.	18	Sultan, S. - - -	800 " "
21	Callierhoe - - -	No condenser on board.	19	Altear - - -	120 " "
22	Ellen Stuart - - -		20	Agamemnon - - -	500 " "
23	Challenge, ship - - -	20 gallons per hour.	21	Geraint - - -	20 " "
24	Waterwitch - - -		22	Haneman - - -	120 " "
25	Nile - - -	26 " "	23	Humber - - -	100 to 150 gallons daily.
26	Legion of Honour - - -	50 " "	24	Indian Chief - - -	40 gallons daily.
27	St. Albans - - -	No condenser on board.	25	Jessi Gilbert - - -	50 " "
28	Alabama - - -	20 gallons per hour.	26	Mabel - - -	30 " "
29	Steamer, Golconda - - -	75 " "	27	Mofussilite - - -	30 " "
30	" Bengal - - -	48 " "	28	Nelson - - -	500 " "
31	" T. A. Gibb - - -	42 " "	29	Royal Standard - - -	700 " "
32	" Catherine Apcar - - -	80 gallons per hour when under weigh.	30	West Indian - - -	60 " "
33	" Paris - - -		31	Windsor Castle - - -	500 " "
34	" Mauritius - - -	250 gallons per hour when at anchor.			

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN of the Amount of Condensing Power,
in detail, for the Supply of FRESH WATER in
each Vessel intended to be employed in the
ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION, including that of the
Condensing Vessel to be stationed at *Amesley*
Bay.

(*Lord John Hay.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
26 March 1868.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 28 November 1867 ;—for,

“RETURN of the Number of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT; distinguishing those belonging to the Regiment, and those attached from other Regiments, in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the Number of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN of each REGIMENT.”

India Office,
3 April 1868.}

T. T. P E A R S, Major General,
Military Secretary.

BENGAL PRESIDENCY.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN showing the Number of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the Number of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN of each REGIMENT.

REGIMENTS.	EUROPEAN OFFICERS.										Total Number of Officers.	NATIVES.	
	Belonging to the Regiments indicated.					Attached from other Regiments, &c.						Commissioned Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers, Rank and File.
	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	TOTAL.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	TOTAL.			
Mountain Battery -	2	-	4	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	136
10th Bengal Cavalry -	2	1	5	2	10	-	-	-	1	1	11	13	468
12th Bengal Cavalry -	1	3	3	1	8	-	1	-	-	-	9	17	450
21st Punjab Infantry	2	2	3	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	16	761
23rd Punjab Infantry	1	2	5	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	15	741
TOTAL - - -	8	8	20	8	44	-	1	-	1	1	46	61	2,556

CORRESPONDING LIST OF EUROPEAN OFFICERS.

Rank and Names.	Corps.	How Employed.
Mountain Battery :		
Major A. H. Bogle - - - -	Royal Artillery - - - -	With No. 5-25th Royal Artillery.
Major J. Hills, v.c. - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - ditto.
Lieutenant T. R. Disney - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - ditto.
Lieutenant J. W. Buckle - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - ditto.
Lieutenant E. H. H. Collen - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - ditto.
Lieutenant A. Broadfoot - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - ditto.
Assistant Surgeon A. W. Beveridge - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - ditto.
Assistant Surgeon A. J. Clapp - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - ditto.
10th Bengal Cavalry :		
Major C. H. Palliser - - - -	Staff Corps - - - -	Commanding the Regiment.
Major M. A. T. Armstrong - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Second in Command and Squadron Officer.
Captain O. Barnes - - - -	Bombay Staff Corps - - - -	Second Squadron Officer.
Lieutenant A. England - - - -	Staff Corps - - - -	Third Squadron Officer.
Lieutenant A. P. Palmer - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Adjutant.
Lieutenant H. C. Greenaway - - - -	General List Infantry - - - -	First Squadron Subaltern.
Lieutenant D. M. Strong - - - -	- ditto - ditto - - - -	Second Squadron Subaltern.
Lieutenant H. Wylie - - - -	- ditto - ditto - - - -	Additional Squadron Officer.
Surgeon E. McKellar - - - -	Bengal Medical Establishment - - - -	In Medical charge.
Assistant Surgeon E. Griffith - - - -	- ditto - ditto - - - -	Doing duty.
Assistant Surgeon R. Jamieson - - - -	- ditto - ditto - - - -	- ditto.
12th Bengal Cavalry :		
Major H. H. Gough, v.c. - - - -	Staff Corps - - - -	Commanding the Regiment.
Captain F. W. Boileau - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Second in Command and Squadron Officer.
Captain P. S. Gorke - - - -	Late 12th Native Infantry - - - -	Second Squadron Officer.
Captain G. C. Jackson - - - -	Late 2nd European Light Cavalry - - - -	Officiating Third Squadron Officer.
Captain A. W. Capel - - - -	Late 5th European Light Cavalry. - - - -	
Lieutenant G. Waterhouse - - - -	General List Infantry - - - -	First Squadron Subaltern.
Lieutenant J. H. Green - - - -	Staff Corps - - - -	Second Squadron Subaltern.
Lieutenant H. A. McNair - - - -	Late 29th Native Infantry - - - -	Adjutant.
Surgeon N. J. Grant - - - -	Bengal Medical Establishment - - - -	In Medical charge.
21st Punjab Infantry :		
Major J. B. Thelwall, c.B. - - - -	Staff Corps - - - -	Commanding the Regiment.
Major J. Hudson - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Second in Command and Wing Officer.
Captain H. Collett - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Wing Officer.
Captain J. H. Tyler - - - -	- ditto - - - -	First Wing Subaltern.
Lieutenant F. W. Collis - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Adjutant.
Lieutenant J. F. T. Carruthers - - - -	General List Infantry - - - -	Quartermaster.
Lieutenant R. Warburton - - - -	Royal Artillery - - - -	Second Wing Subaltern.
Surgeon G. H. Daly - - - -	Bengal Medical Establishment - - - -	In Medical charge.
23rd Punjab Infantry :		
Major C. F. F. Chamberlain - - - -	Bengal Staff Corps - - - -	Commanding the Regiment.
Captain A. A. Currie - - - -	Staff Corps - - - -	Second in Command and Wing Officer.
Captain H. A. W. Waterfield - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Officiating Wing Officer.
Lieutenant A. D. Anderson - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Adjutant.
Lieutenant F. H. B. Marsh - - - -	General List Infantry - - - -	Quartermaster.
Lieutenant H. Paterson - - - -	Staff Corps - - - -	First Wing Subaltern.
Lieutenant G. M. Abbott - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Second Wing Subaltern.
Lieutenant S. Hotham - - - -	General List Infantry. - - - -	
Assistant Surgeon F. G. Constant - - - -	Bengal Medical Establishment - - - -	In Medical charge.
Assistant Surgeon W. W. Galloway - - - -	- ditto - - - -	Doing duty.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN showing the Number of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the Number of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN of each REGIMENT.

REGIMENTS.	EUROPEAN OFFICERS.											NATIVES.					REMARKS.
	Belonging to the Regiments indicated.					Attached from other Regiments.						Commissioned Officers.	Non-Commis- sioned Officers.		Drummers, Trumpeters, and Privates.	TOTAL.	
	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	TOTAL.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	TOTAL.	Sergeants.		Corporals.				
3rd Regiment Light Cavalry -	2	2	4	1	9	-	-	-	1	1	10	16	41	28	377	462	Latest return received, dated Wiah, 1st December 1867. Latest return received 2nd December 1867, previous to embarkation of the regiment.
3rd Regiment Sind Horse -	1	1	4	1	7	-	-	2	1	3	10	20	42	25	370	457	
2nd Regiment Native Infantry	2	2	2	1	7	-	-	2	1	3	10	15	39	39	616	709	
3rd Regiment Native Infantry	2	3	2	1	8	-	-	3	1	4	12	15	39	39	616	709	
5th Regiment Native Infantry*	2	1	4	1	8	-	-	1	1	2	10	15	39	39	616	709	Each Native Regiment of Infantry was made up to an effective strength of 709, exclusive of men at Depôt.
8th Regiment Native Infantry*	3	-	4	1	8	-	-	1	1	2	10	15	39	39	616	709	
10th Regiment Native Infantry	3	2	1	1	7	-	-	2	1	3	10	15	39	39	616	709	
18th Regiment Native Infantry	3	1	3	1	8	-	-	1	1	2	10	15	39	39	616	709	
25th Regiment Native Infantry	3	-	4	1	8	-	-	1	1	2	10	15	39	39	616	709	
27th Regiment Native Infantry	1	2	5	1	9	-	-	-	1	1	10	15	39	39	616	709	
TOTAL - - -	22	14	33	10	79	-	-	13	10	23	102	156	395	365	5,675	6,591	

* Not yet embarked.

Bombay, 24 January 1868.

(signed) W. H. Kirby, Colonel,
Adjutant General, Bombay Army.

CORRESPONDING LIST OF EUROPEAN OFFICERS.

Rank and Names.		Corps.	How Employed.	Remarks.
3rd Regiment Light Cavalry:				
Lieutenant Colonel	J. C. Graves -	Bombay Cavalry - - -	Commandant.	
Lieutenant Colonel	F. A. E. Loch -	Bombay Staff Corps - - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	A. W. Macnaghten -	2nd Bombay Cavalry - - -	2nd Squadron Officer.	
Captain - -	C. A. Moore -	2nd Bombay Cavalry - - -	Officiating 3rd Squadron Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	J. F. Willoughby -	Bombay General List - - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	H. B. McNeill -	Bombay General List - - -	Squadron Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	J. E. Gordon -	Bombay General List - - -	Squadron Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	C. A. Owen -	Bombay General List - - -	Attached.	
Assistant Surgeon	C. J. McDowall -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	J. Simpson, M. B. -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	Extra for the Expedition.
3rd Regiment Sind Horse:				
Major - -	W. L. Briggs -	Bombay Staff Corps - - -	Commandant.	
Captain - -	W. Dickinson -	Bombay Staff Corps - - -	Second in Command.	
Lieutenant - -	R. V. Malden -	Bombay Staff Corps - - -	2nd Squadron Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	A. L. McNair -	Bombay Staff Corps - - -	3rd Squadron Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	W. Reynolds -	Bombay Staff Corps - - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	W. S. A. Lockhart -	14th Bengal Cavalry - - -	Squadron Subaltern	{ Attached from other Regiments for the Expedition.
Lieutenant - -	B. A. Combe -	21st Hussars - - -	Squadron Subaltern	
Lieutenant - -	C. W. E. Murphy -	Royal Artillery - - -	Squadron Subaltern.	
Assistant Surgeon	R. Bowman -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	G. A. Maconachie, M. B. -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	Extra for the Expedition.

Rank and Names.		Corps.	How Employed.	Remarks.
2nd Regiment Native Infantry (Grenadiers):				
Lieutenant Colonel	St. J.O'N. Muter -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Commandant.	{ Attached from other Regiments for the Expedition.
Major - -	J. L. Sheppard -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	S. De B. Edwards	2nd Regiment Native Infantry	Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant -	C. M. Ryves -	Bombay General List - -	Adjutant.	
Captain - -	J. M. Boyd -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant -	J. G. McRae -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant -	E. J. Gunthorpe -	Madras General List - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Lieutenant -	J. J. Fletcher -	Madras General List - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Assistant Surgeon	E. P. Burrowes -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	Extra for the Expedi- tion.
Assistant Surgeon	W. Nowlan, M. B. -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	
3rd Regiment Native Infantry:				
Lieutenant Colonel	E. Campbell -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	{ Attached from other Regiments for the Expedition.
Major - -	W. J. Browne -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	J. F. Chapman -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Captain - -	G. H. Kennedy -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant -	W. H. Yates -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant -	F. H. Tyrrel -	3rd Madras Native Infantry -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant -	T. R. Tabuteau -	Madras Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Ensign - -	J. E. Porteous -	21st Foot - - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Captain - -	J. R. Strutt - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Attached.	
Lieutenant -	J. A. Rowlandson	Bombay General List - -	Attached.	
Assistant Surgeon	R. A. Alleyne -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	Extra for the Expedi- tion.
Assistant Surgeon	R. H. Batty -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached. - - -	
5th Regiment Native Light Infantry:				
Lieutenant Colonel	W. W. Taylor -	Bombay Infantry - - -	Commandant.	Attached from another Regiment for the Expedition.
Major - -	C. M. W. James -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	A. A. DesVœux -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant -	R. M. Chambers -	5th Native Light Infantry -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant -	J. M. Madden -	Bombay General List - -	Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant -	R. A. C. Hunt -	5th Native Light Infantry -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant -	J. McK. Hartigan	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant -	C. R. Oxley -	Madras General List - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Surgeon - -	H. Day, M. D. -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	J. Raby - -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	Extra for the Expedi- tion.
8th Regiment Native Infantry:				
Lieutenant Colonel	J. P. Sandwith -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	Attached from another Regiment for the Expedition.
Major - -	A. Becher - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Major - -	H. A. Woodhouse	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant -	R. M. Lloyd -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant -	A. R. T. McRae -	Bombay General List - -	Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant -	H. Gardiner -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant -	C. C. Y. Butler -	76th Foot - - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Lieutenant -	G. Bromwell -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Attached.	Extra for the Expedi- tion.
Assistant Surgeon	H. F. McGrath -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	T. Holmsted -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	
10th Regiment Native Infantry:				
Colonel - -	J. Field - -	Bombay Infantry - - -	Commandant.	{ Attached from other Regiments for the Expedition.
Major - -	H. H. James -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Major - -	T. W. W. Pierce -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Captain - -	A. Durand - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant -	C. E. Blowers -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Quartermaster.	
Captain - -	R. Bard - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant -	R. Wilson - -	Madras General List - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Lieutenant -	E. R. Goode -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Attached - - -	
Surgeon Major -	T. Murray - -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	A. Laing - -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	

Rank and Name.		Corps.	How Employed.	Remarks.
18th Regiment Native Infantry :				
Lieutenant Colonel	J. J. Combe -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	Extra for the Expedition.
Major - -	W. R. Alexander -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Major - -	J. A. Smith -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	J. Jopp -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	J. G. E. Griffith -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Quartermaster.	
Captain - -	W. H. Newport -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	C. S. Lechmere -	Bombay General List - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	W. F. Simpson -	Bombay General List - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Assistant Surgeon	C. Joynt, M.D. -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	H. DeTatham -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	
25th Regiment Native Light Infantry :				
Lieutenant Colonel	A. B. Little - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	Remained behind sick on embarkation of regiment. Another officer will be appointed.
Major - -	J. Fairbrother -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Major - -	G. D. Eales -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer - - -	
Lieutenant - -	J. Withers - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	R. Hennell - -	Bombay General List - -	Officiating Quartermaster.	Attached from another regiment for the Expedition.
Lieutenant - -	H. L. Walter -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	A. Poole - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	D. W. Mackinnon	109th Foot - - - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Surgeon - -	J. F. Straker -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	Extra for the Expedition.
Assistant Surgeon	W. F. Knapp -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	
27th Regiment Native Infantry :				
Major - -	H. Beville - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	Expected to join direct from England. Leave up.
Captain - -	G. F. Hogg - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	J. H. Castell -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	P. A. Browne -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	P. I. F. Henslowe	Cadre, 3rd Bombay European Regiment.	Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant - -	H. B. Edwards -	Cadre, 2nd Bombay European Regiment.	Wing Subaltern - -	
Lieutenant - -	M. H. Nicholson -	Bombay General List - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	F. A. Beville -	Bombay General List - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Assistant Surgeon	R. Boustead -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	S. O. B. Banks -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN of the NUMBER of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT; distinguishing those belonging to the Regiment, and those attached from other Regiments, in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the NUMBER of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN of each REGIMENT.

(*Colonel Sykes.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
20 April 1868.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 15 May 1868 ;—

“ THAT the RETURN relative to the ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION (Parliamentary Paper, No. 206, of the present Session) be amended, in the following form:

“ RETURN showing the Number of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the Number of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, and RANK and FILE with each REGIMENT, with corresponding Lists of the EUROPEAN OFFICERS.”

Regiments,	EUROPEAN OFFICERS.										Total Number of Officers with each Regiment,	NATIVES.	
	Belonging to the Cadre of the Regiments with which they are serving.					Attached from the Staff Corps, other Regiments or the General List.						Commissioned Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers, Rank and File.
	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	Total.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	Total.			

India Office,
7 July 1868. }

T. T. P E A R S, Major General,
Military Secretary.

(Colonel Sykes.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
9 July 1868. .

RETURN showing the Number of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the Number of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and RANK and FILE with each REGIMENT ; with corresponding Lists of the EUROPEAN OFFICERS.

BENGAL PRESIDENCY.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN showing the Number of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the Number of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and RANK and FILE with each REGIMENT ; with corresponding List of the EUROPEAN OFFICERS.

REGIMENTS.	EUROPEAN OFFICERS.										Total Number of Officers with each Regiment.	NATIVES.	
	Belonging to the Cadre of the Regiment with which they are serving.					Attached from the Staff Corps, other Regiments, or the General List, but not belonging to the Cadre of the Regiment with which they are serving.						Commissioned Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers, Rank and File.
	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	TOTAL.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	TOTAL.			
Mountain Battery	2	-	4	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	136
10th Bengal Cavalry, late 2nd Regiment Hodson's Horse.	-	-	No Cadre	-	-	2	1	5	3	11	11	13	468
12th Bengal Cavalry, late 2nd Sikh Cavalry.	-	-	No Cadre	-	-	1	4	3	1	9	9	17	450
21st Punjab Infantry, late 9th Punjab Infantry.	-	-	No Cadre	-	-	2	2	3	1	8	8	16	761
23rd Punjab Infantry, late 15th Punjab Infantry.	-	-	No Cadre	-	-	1	2	5	2	10	10	15	741
TOTAL	2	-	4	2	8	6	9	16	7	38	46	61	2,556

CORRESPONDING LIST OF EUROPEAN OFFICERS.

Rank and Names.	Corps.	How Employed.
Mountain Battery :		
Major A. H. Bogle - - - -	Royal Artillery	With No. 5-25th Royal Artillery.
Major J. Hills, v.c. - - - -	ditto - - - -	ditto - - - - ditto.
Lieutenant T. R. Disney - - - -	ditto - - - -	ditto - - - - ditto.
Lieutenant J. W. Buckle - - - -	ditto - - - -	ditto - - - - ditto.
Lieutenant E. H. H. Collen - - - -	ditto - - - -	ditto - - - - ditto.
Lieutenant A. Broadfoot - - - -	ditto - - - -	ditto - - - - ditto.
Assistant Surgeon A. W. Beveridge - - - -	ditto - - - -	ditto - - - - ditto.
Assistant Surgeon A. J. Clapp - - - -	ditto - - - -	ditto - - - - ditto.

Rank and Names.	Corps.	How Employed.
10th Bengal Cavalry :		
Major C. H. Palliser - - -	Staff Corps - - -	Commanding the Regiment.
Major M. A. T. Armstrong - - -	- ditto - - -	Second in Command and Squadron Officer.
Captain O. Barnes - - -	Bombay Staff Corps - - -	Second Squadron Officer.
Lieutenant A. England - - -	Staff Corps - - -	Third Squadron Officer.
Lieutenant A. P. Palmer - - -	- ditto - - -	Adjutant.
Lieutenant H. C. Greenaway - - -	General List Infantry - - -	First Squadron Subaltern.
Lieutenant D. M. Strong - - -	- ditto - ditto - - -	Second Squadron Subaltern.
Lieutenant H. Wylie - - -	- ditto - ditto - - -	Additional Squadron Officer.
Surgeon E. McKellar - - -	Bengal Medical Establishment - - -	In Medical charge.
Assistant Surgeon E. Griffith - - -	- ditto - ditto - - -	Doing duty.
Assistant Surgeon R. Jamieson - - -	- ditto - ditto - - -	- ditto.
12th Bengal Cavalry :		
Major H. H. Gough, v. c. - - -	Staff Corps - - -	Commanding the Regiment.
Captain F. W. Boileau - - -	- ditto - - -	Second in Command and Squadron Officer.
Captain P. S. Yorke - - -	Late 12th Native Infantry - - -	Second Squadron Officer.
Captain G. C. Jackson - - -	Late 2nd European Light Cavalry - - -	Officiating Third Squadron Officer.
Captain A. W. Capel - - -	Late 5th European Light Cavalry. - - -	
Lieutenant G. Waterhouse - - -	General List Infantry - - -	First Squadron Subaltern.
Lieutenant J. H. Green - - -	Staff Corps - - -	Second Squadron Subaltern.
Lieutenant H. A. McNair - - -	Late 29th Native Infantry - - -	Adjutant.
Surgeon N. J. Grant - - -	Bengal Medical Establishment - - -	In Medical charge.
21st Punjab Infantry :		
Major J. B. Thelwall, c. b. - - -	Staff Corps - - -	Commanding the Regiment.
Major J. Hudson - - -	- ditto - - -	Second in Command and Wing Officer.
Captain H. Collett - - -	- ditto - - -	Wing Officer.
Captain J. H. Tyler - - -	- ditto - - -	First Wing Subaltern.
Lieutenant F. W. Collis - - -	- ditto - - -	Adjutant.
Lieutenant J. F. T. Carruthers - - -	General List Infantry - - -	Quartermaster.
Lieutenant R. Warburton - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	Second Wing Subaltern.
Surgeon G. H. Daly - - -	Bengal Medical Establishment - - -	In Medical charge.
23rd Punjab Infantry :		
Major C. F. F. Chamberlain - - -	Bengal Staff Corps - - -	Commanding the Regiment.
Captain A. A. Currie - - -	Staff Corps - - -	Second in Command and Wing Officer.
Captain H. A. W. Waterfield - - -	- ditto - - -	Officiating Wing Officer.
Lieutenant A. D. Anderson - - -	- ditto - - -	Adjutant.
Lieutenant F. H. B. Marsh - - -	General List Infantry - - -	Quartermaster.
Lieutenant H. Paterson - - -	Staff Corps - - -	First Wing Subaltern.
Lieutenant G. M. Abbott - - -	- ditto - - -	Second Wing Subaltern.
Lieutenant S. Hotham - - -	General List Infantry. - - -	
Assistant Surgeon F. G. Constant - - -	Bengal Medical Establishment - - -	In Medical charge.
Assistant Surgeon W. W. Galloway - - -	- ditto - - -	Doing duty.

Adjutant General's Office,
Head Quarters, Calcutta, 14 February 1868.

(signed)

H. E. Longden, Colonel,
Adjutant General.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN showing the Number of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the Number of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and RANK and FILE with each REGIMENT; with corresponding list of the EUROPEAN OFFICERS.

REGIMENTS.	EUROPEAN OFFICERS.										Total Number of Officers with each Regiment.	NATIVES.	
	Belonging to the Cadre of the Regiment with which they are serving.					Attached from the Staff Corps, other Regiments, or the General List, but not belonging to the Cadre of the Regiment with which they are serving.						Commissioned Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers Rank and File.
	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	TOTAL.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Medical Officers.	TOTAL.			
3rd Regiment Light Cavalry -	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	2	10	10	16	446
3rd Regiment Sind Horse -	-	-	No Cadre			-	1	1	6	2	10	20	437
2nd Regiment Native Infantry -	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	4	2	8	10	15	694
3rd Regiment Native Infantry -	-	3	1	-	4	2	-	4	2	8	12	15	694
5th Regiment Native Infantry -	-	1	3	-	4	2	-	2	2	6	10	15	694
8th Regiment Native Infantry -	1	-	3	-	4	2	-	2	2	6	10	15	694
10th Regiment Native Infantry -	2	2	1	-	5	1	-	2	2	5	10	15	694
18th Regiment Native Infantry -	1	-	1	-	2	2	1	3	2	8	10	15	694
25th Regiment Native Infantry -	1	-	1	-	2	2	-	4	2	8	10	15	694
27th Regiment Native Infantry, late 1st Belooch Regiment.	-	-	No Cadre			-	1	2	5	2	10	15	694
TOTAL - - -	6	7	10	-	23	16	7	36	20	79	102	156	6,435

CORRESPONDING LIST OF EUROPEAN OFFICERS.

Rank and Names.		Corps.		How Employed.		Remarks.
3rd Regiment Light Cavalry :						
Lieutenant Colonel	J. C. Graves -	Bombay Cavalry -	-	Commandant.		
Lieutenant Colonel	F. A. E. Loch -	Bombay Staff Corps -	-	Second in Command.		
Captain -	A. W. Macnaghten -	2nd Bombay Cavalry -	-	2nd Squadron Officer.		
Captain -	C. A. Moore -	2nd Bombay Cavalry -	-	Officiating 3rd Squadron Officer.		
Lieutenant -	J. F. Willoughby -	Bombay General List -	-	Adjutant.		
Lieutenant -	H. B. McNeill -	Bombay General List -	-	Squadron Subaltern.		
Lieutenant -	J. E. Gordon -	Bombay General List -	-	Squadron Subaltern.		
Lieutenant -	C. A. Owen -	Bombay General List -	-	Attached.		
Assistant Surgeon	C. J. McDowall -	Bombay Medical Establishment		In Medical charge.		
Assistant Surgeon	J. Simpson, M.B. -	Bombay Medical Establishment		Attached - - -		Extra for the Expedition.
3rd Regiment Sind Horse:						
Major -	W. L. Briggs -	Bombay Staff Corps -	-	Commandant.		
Captain -	W. Dickinson -	Bombay Staff Corps -	-	Second in Command.		
Lieutenant -	R. V. Malden -	Bombay Staff Corps -	-	2nd Squadron Officer.		
Lieutenant -	A. L. McNair -	Bombay Staff Corps -	-	3rd Squadron Officer.		
Lieutenant -	W. Reynolds -	Bombay Staff Corps -	-	Adjutant.		
Lieutenant -	W. S. A. Lockhart -	14th Bengal Cavalry -	-	Squadron Subaltern	-	{ Attached from other Regiments for the Expedition.
Lieutenant -	B. A. Combe -	21st Hussars -	-	Squadron Subaltern	-	
Lieutenant -	C. W. E. Murphy -	Royal Artillery -	-	Squadron Subaltern.	-	
Assistant Surgeon	R. Bowman -	Bombay Medical Establishment		In Medical charge.		
Assistant Surgeon	G. A. Maconachie, M.B. -	Bombay Medical Establishment		Attached - - -		Extra for the Expedition.

Rank and Names.		Corps.	How Employed.	Remarks.
2nd Regiment Native Infantry (Grenadiers):				
Lieutenant Colonel	St. J.O'N. Muter -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Commandant.	{ Attached from other Regiments for the Expedition.
Major - -	J. L. Sheppard -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	S. De B. Edwardes	2nd Regiment Native Infantry	Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	C. M. Ryves -	Bombay General List - -	Adjutant.	
Captain - -	J. M. Boyd -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant - -	J. G. McRae -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	E. J. Gunthorpe -	Madras General List - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Lieutenant - -	J. J. Fletcher -	Madras General List - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Assistant Surgeon	E. P. Burrowes -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	Extra for the Expedition.
Assistant Surgeon	W. Nolan, M.B. -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	
3rd Regiment Native Infantry:				
Lieutenant Colonel	E. Campbell -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	{ Attached from other Regiments for the Expedition.
Major - -	W. J. Browne -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	J. F. Chapman -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Captain - -	G. H. Kennedy -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	W. H. Yates -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant - -	F. H. Tyrrel -	3rd Madras Native Infantry -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	T. R. Tabuteau -	Madras Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Ensign - -	J. E. Porteous -	21st Foot - - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Captain - -	J. R. Strutt -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Attached.	
Lieutenant - -	J. A. Rowlandson	Bombay General List - -	Attached.	
Assistant Surgeon	R. A. Alleyne -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	Extra for the Expedition.
Assistant Surgeon	R. H. Batty -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached. - - -	
5th Regiment Native Light Infantry:				
Lieutenant Colonel	W. W. Taylor -	Bombay Infantry - - -	Commandant.	Attached from another Regiment for the Expedition.
Major - -	C. M. W. James -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	A. A. DesVœux -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	R. M. Chambers -	5th Native Light Infantry -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	J. M. Madden -	Bombay General List - -	Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant - -	R. A. C. Hunt -	5th Native Light Infantry -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	J. McK. Hartigan	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	C. R. Oxley -	Madras General List - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Surgeon - -	H. Day, M.D. -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	J. Raby -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	
8th Regiment Native Infantry:				
Lieutenant Colonel	J. P. Sandwith -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	Attached from another Regiment for the Expedition.
Major - -	A. Becher -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Major - -	H. A. Woodhouse	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	R. M. Lloyd -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	A. R. T. McRae -	Bombay General List - -	Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant - -	H. Gardiner -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	C. C. Y. Butler -	76th Foot - - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Lieutenant - -	G. Bramwell -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Attached.	
Assistant Surgeon	H. F. McGrath -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	T. Holmsted -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	
10th Regiment Native Infantry:				
Colonel - -	J. Field -	Bombay Infantry - - -	Commandant.	{ Attached from other Regiments for the Expedition.
Major - -	H. H. James -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Major - -	T. W. W. Pierce -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Captain - -	A. Durand -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	C. E. Blowers -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Quartermaster.	
Captain - -	R. Burd -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	R. Wilson -	Madras General List - -	Wing Subaltern - -	
Lieutenant - -	E. R. Goode -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Attached - - -	
Surgeon Major -	T. Murray -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	Extra for the Expedition.
Assistant Surgeon	A. Laing -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	

Rank and Name.		Corps.	How Employed.	Remarks.
18th Regiment Native Infantry :				
Lieutenant Colonel	J. J. Combe -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	
Major - -	W. R. Alexander -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Major - -	J. A. Smith - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	J. Jopp - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	J. G. E. Griffith -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Quartermaster.	
Captain - -	W. H. Newport -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	C. S. Lechmere -	Bombay General List - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	W. F. Simpson -	Bombay General List - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Assistant Surgeon	C. Joynt, M.D. -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	H. DeTatham -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	Extra for the Expedition.
25th Regiment Native Light Infantry :				
Lieutenant Colonel	A. B. Little - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	
Major - -	J. Fairbrother -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Major - -	G. D. Eales - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Officer - - -	Remained behind sick on embarkation of regiment. Another officer will be appointed.
Lieutenant - -	J. Withers - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	R. Hennell - -	Bombay General List - -	Officiating Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant - -	H. L. Walter - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	A. Poole - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Wing Subaltern.	Attached from another regiment for the Expedition.
Lieutenant - -	D. W. Mackinnon -	109th Foot - - - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Surgeon - -	J. F. Straker -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	W. F. Knapp -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	Extra for the Expedition.
27th Regiment Native Infantry :				
Major - -	H. Beville - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Commandant.	
Captain - -	G. F. Hogg - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Second in Command.	
Captain - -	J. H. Castell - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Officiating Wing Officer.	
Lieutenant - -	P. A. Browne - -	Bombay Staff Corps - -	Adjutant.	
Lieutenant - -	P. I. F. Henslowe -	Cadre, 3rd Bombay European Regiment.	Quartermaster.	
Lieutenant - -	H. B. Edwards -	Cadre, 2nd Bombay European Regiment.	Wing Subaltern - - -	Expected to join direct from England. Leave up.
Lieutenant - -	M. H. Nicholson -	Bombay General List - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Lieutenant - -	F. A. Beville - -	Bombay General List - -	Wing Subaltern.	
Assistant Surgeon	R. Boustead - -	Bombay Medical Establishment	In Medical charge.	
Assistant Surgeon	S. O'B. Banks -	Bombay Medical Establishment	Attached - - -	Extra for the Expedition.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of EUROPEAN OFFICERS with each NATIVE REGIMENT in the EXPEDITION to *Abyssinia*, and the NUMBER of NATIVE COMMISSIONED and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and RANK and FILE with each REGIMENT; with corresponding Lists of EUROPEAN OFFICERS.

(Colonel Sykes.)

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